Transforming & Empowering the Lives of Inner City Youth by Meeting Physical & Spiritual Needs
Transform.

The House DC, Inc. (The House) is a faith-based youth center located in the Anacostia community of Southeast Washington, D.C., on a street formerly known as “Murder Row.”

Born out of a passion to provide a safe place for youth to “hang” after school, these former abandoned buildings that were once used as “crack houses” are now the setting for programs that offer young people opportunities: healthy relationships, life changing experiences, and a change of heart.

The House DC’s vision is to transform and empower the lives of inner city youth and their families through Christ, by giving them hope, a productive future, and a changed community.

“It’s meant to be an urban oasis where teens get encouragement, praise and the kind of stable relationships with adults that are often missing in their lives. Here also, they find a range of enriching activities or just a place to relax.”

—WASHINGTON POST September 21, 2000
The Hang.

Our main goal is to provide a safe place for youth. “Hang” time gives staff and volunteers a chance to connect personally with our youth and to understand the issues in their lives.

We encourage and believe in the power of the “Hang,” in the belief that if you create a moment for change, God can change any heart in a moment.

Interaction with positive adults helps to create those moments. Because with students you never know when that moment is going to be.

“When I first came here I thought it would be just like a little rec center, everybody just come here and play games, stuff like that. But when they started doing the Life Sessions, and the retreats we go on, I been thinking... maybe I should change my life.”

—JADA from the PBS Religion & Ethics Special
“The House feels more like what my home should have felt like. They became my family and also helps me with school, and because of them, I made honor roll for the first time. I want to go to college next year. I also tried out for the football team and made it!”

—JOHN a changed House DC student

“I thought it was over for me. I wanted it to be over for me. But because The House didn’t give up on me, I will never give up on myself or my child.”

—TEEN MOM
Spiritual Ministry. Our faith in Christ is the foundation of our work. Students voluntarily participate in the Life Sessions which are offered each week. These are discussions that use the Bible as the basis for discussing life issues the students face. We affirm that faith provides the ultimate, true solution for our students.

Academics. Our computer lab is available for students to work on homework, reports, and special projects. Our academic program includes tutoring, a typing course, homework assistance, high school mentoring, and college guidance.

Life Skills. We teach Life Skills—such as employment search skills—to help our students succeed in the work place after high school. Life Skills include: resume writing; completing employment applications; job interviewing skills, including appropriate dress and presentation; professionalism; and work ethics.

Arts. The arts, including entertainment and other media, are powerfully persuasive in the lives of young people, who are bombarded and influenced on a daily basis. Our recording studio allows students an outlet for self-expression and the chance to produce CDs filled with songs, raps, and poems they have written and performed.

Props. Points are earned for improvement in school, completing homework assignments, conducting household chores at the outreach center, and being involved with programs. Students redeem these points that are called “Props” for prizes and trips. The Props program is a simple, yet highly effective motivational tool to encourage students.

“Because of The House I’m the first person to graduate from high school in my family and now I’m the first person to go to college. The House has not only changed my entire life but my entire family’s life. My mom is going to get her GED now.”
Through our Meal Program we provide dinner and an afternoon snack each day, providing the most consistent meal many of our students receive. Staff and students sit down, say grace, eat together, enjoying the meal in a family atmosphere, with opportunities for conversation and for sharing experiences of the day.

“It’s more than a place where kids can go after school. It’s more than a place where they can find adult role models. The House offers a faith-based message that says your life matters, and we care.”

—LUCKY SEVERSON   PBS Religion & Ethics Special