THE HOUSE PROVIDES A SAFE HAVEN FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH.
Dear Friend of The House:

This past year, once again, the support of generous people, and the sincere faith and prayers of many on behalf of the vulnerable youth we serve at The House DC, Inc., has helped to transform the lives of young people in the southeast community of Anacostia in Washington, D.C., creating lasting change for them and for their families.

We at The House have the unique benefit of serving on the front line. The youth who participate in our programs contend daily with the presence of crime, drugs, family breakdown, poverty, and lack of opportunity. We are able to walk with them as trusted mentors, and to bring Christ’s love to them, offering a sure guide as they encounter the many challenges of their world. Through shared experiences, these young people become able to trust. As they encounter Christ, many experience a real and lasting transformation in their lives. This past year we have witnessed many such transformations.

For those of you who have supported us through your generous donations, you have walked with us, allies on the front line, saving lives. We are grateful to all of you. We rely on your support and could not have conducted an effective ministry without you.

In this annual report we share an overview of our history as, by the grace of God, we begin our 15th year. We want to also share some accomplishments of the past year and to outline future needs, recognizing the challenges ahead. We thank you for your continued help and support of our work at The House DC.

In Christ,

La Wonda
La Wonda Bornstein
President & CEO
The idea for The House DC grew out of a conversation among a group of men—black and white—from Southeast Christian Fellowship Church in the District of Columbia, McLean Bible Church in suburban Virginia, and The Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The men met together for more than a year, seeking ways to achieve racial healing within the church. As the result of their conversations, they decided that a ministry of outreach to the poorest and most vulnerable teens in the District of Columbia would be their most effective witness. It was decided to reach out to teenagers since many programs target young children but few exist for teenagers. At the same time, teenagers are a group in desperate need, and are still at an age capable of responding and developing healthy, productive lives.

In 1999, an initial banquet generated the funds to start our program and renovate and purchase our first building. The House became an affiliate and was organized under Ministry Alliance (formerly known as Faith In The Family International). We first opened our doors in November 1999 at 1606 17th St. SE, in a building that had been used for illicit drugs and other illegal activities, on a street known by local police as “Murder Row.” Thus began the work of transforming lives for teenagers and their families in the Anacostia neighborhood we serve.

1999
> Our first property, 1606 17th St. SE, is purchased and renovated. Doors open in November.
> Our second property, 1610 17th St. SE, is donated.

2000
> The Washington Post refers to The House as an “urban haven for southeast teens” that is making a positive, visible difference in the neighborhood.
> The House is selected as a PowerUp Site, bringing technology to Southeast DC.
> The first CD made by students is released.
> First Annual Golf Tournament fundraiser.

2001
> First student retreat is held at The House.
> First House band is created.
> First Annual Thanksgiving Dinner is hosted by The House for Anacostia Senior High School (ASHS) faculty and administration.
> 1600 17th St. SE is donated to The House.

2002
> La Wonda Bornstein begins serving at The House as Director of Operations.
2003
> The House becomes its own 501(c)(3).
> ASHS invites The House to partner with the school, to provide daily onsite programming and be a consistent presence at the school.

2004
> ASHS invites The House to host an all-day character seminar during the school day and attended by the entire student population a clear testimony to the confidence of the school in The House.
> The House is featured on NBC 4 News.
> The House celebrates 5 years.
> The House is awarded $400,000 to renovate its third building, 1600 17th St. SE.

2005
> Pregnancy Resource Center is established at The House in partnership with Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center.
> The House awards its first college scholarship to a graduating high school senior.

2007
> 1600 17th St. SE is renovated with a Grand Opening ceremony.
> The House holds its first spring community day by blocking off the street and providing food, fun and entertainment.
> A House student is valedictorian at ASHS.

2008
> A House student is valedictorian at ASHS.
> Ten graduating seniors who participated in programs at The House start college.
> The House holds its first baptism service with 14 students.
Fifteen (15) years ago we could not have imagined how much we would experience at The House or realize how many lives we would touch. There have been periods of change, struggles to acquire funding, and sometimes the doubts those struggles bring. Now, as we look back over past years, we see and remember the faces of the young people who have come through our doors and the families that have been able to heal because of The House. We have been here for 15 years and we are here for the long haul, because we are indeed involved in a crucial mission. With God’s help, and with the help of all who support us, we look forward to the years ahead, to encountering the young people who will come through our doors at the beginning of each school year, and to meeting whatever challenges occur along the way. We know that we are doing God’s work.

THANK YOU for being part of it with us.

Every day we are open is a milestone!
For 15 years, The House DC, Inc. has been creating a home away from home for at risk high school students. We serve more than 100 students each year and have worked with more than 2,000 young people and their families since we first opened our doors. Our staff members establish relationships of trust based on faith, honesty, courtesy, kindness and concern for the welfare of the young people we serve.

“Hanging Out” and Mealtime
On any afternoon, when first coming to The House, students enter a game room where they are free to “hang,” interacting in an unstructured way with staff and other students, creating healthy relationships as part of a natural give and take. Dinner and an after school snack are served each day to sixty or more students.

Life Sessions
On a voluntary basis, Life Sessions, discussions that use the Bible as the basis for discussing life issues the students face, are offered each week. Many students have come to Christ as the result of participating in Life Sessions.

Computers and Music
In our computer lab, students receive instruction and supervision as they surf the Internet and learn to use complex software. Our recording studio allow House staff to “meet youth where they are in their life.” It offers students an opportunity to express their feelings through songs and raps they write and perform. Students produce CDs and videos, as well as receive training in audio engineering and music production.

Academics
Academic mentoring is part of our programs. Since 2003 we have partnered with Anacostia Senior High School and have a strong presence and relationship with the school. The graduation rate for high school seniors participating in our programs is close to 100%.

Retreats & Outings
Twice a year, in the fall and spring, students participate in a weekend retreat outside the city. The retreats are a time of renewal, with fun and challenging activities and opportunities for sharing, away from the pressures of the city and daily life. During our retreats, many students experience their faith in a new and deeply compelling way. Another special activity is our year-end trip in June. The nine top student leaders are awarded a special trip with all expenses paid for 4 or 5 days. The students have traveled to New York, Florida, California, and Virginia Beach. Additional day trips and outings are provided for students each month. These are educational activities, or sometimes just for fun. All outings and trips are offered as incentives to encourage academic performance and participation in House programs.

Meeting the Need
There are many needs among our students, and we help them in a variety of ways. We offer counseling, mentoring and emergency assistance as needed, for students and often their families. We are often able to be the first to intervene when students are experiencing difficulties. Our proactive response has helped many of our vulnerable young people to turn their lives around. As we begin our 15th year, we are grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve the community in Southeast as well as throughout Washington, D.C.
Church Partnerships
Partnership with and support from the Church has been important and foundational part of the development and ministry of The House. We have continued to reach out to churches, developing partnership relationships with Zion Church and Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, in addition to the relationship we have had with McLean Bible Church from our beginning. In November 2013, we were invited to share about our ministry at Southview Community Church in Reston, Virginia. In May 2014, Holy Trinity Church in McLean, VA released a music CD to benefit The House. Our church partnerships continue to grow and inspire our work at The House.

Golf Tournament
The House DC’s 14th Annual Golf Tournament was a big success with almost 100 participants. Thanks to Ed Tarbutton, Chairman, and Co-chairs, John Yetman and George Dunn. Also, many thanks to our sponsors, both continuing and new this year, for generously investing in inner city youth. Both John Yetman and George Dunn chaired and supported this fundraiser for the past 15 years. The Tournament has raised $670,000.

Opening Day Cookout
The opening day cookout has become a tradition at The House. Many in the neighborhood know who we are, but our picnic gives us an opportunity to invite the community in, to build relationships and share the story of our ministry. It also allows us to serve the entire family so everyone, regardless of age, can experience the fun and food. This year, as part of the fun we set up a dunk tank and blow up basketball court. There were long lines of students waiting to dunk our House staff. It was a great success, filled with fun, relaxation and laughter.

A New Program
A new mentoring program for girls was established in October 2013. Young women who were formerly students at The House volunteer and serve as mentors for current students. The program has been received enthusiastically. The young women who are mentors are able to say, “I recently went through what you’re going through. I made it, and because I did my faith is stronger now.” They are convincing because they speak truthfully, from experience. The mentors become role models for their younger sisters at The House. They are already creating a network of honest friendship, which is invaluable in providing guidance and support for negotiating life’s choices.

Meal Program Grows
Good food is one way to draw youth to The House DC and get them off the streets. Ms. Jackson, our cook and whose son attended programs at The House, is part of our community. Some of our young people assist in the kitchen, helping to prepare and serve meals. Because our meal program is such an important source of nourishment for the youth we serve, we have increased the number of meals served each evening during 2013-2014 school year. If we can meet the physical need for food, our young people will be more receptive to the spiritual food we offer them.

Academics
The partnership between The House and ASHS continues to be strong. It is our hope that with a better academic foundation, more students who come to The House will be able to succeed academically. In addition, our goal is to continue to provide additional support through mentoring, college admission, college visits, and other basic needs.

Recording Studio
The House has been able to attract students to our music program by keeping the equipment up to industry standards. This year for the first time we had to limit the amount of time each student could spend in the studio so that more students could have access, which is in high demand.
FINANCIALS
of The House DC, Inc.

Revenue = $754,166
- Grants (8%)
- Golf Tournament (6.8%)
- Corporate (2%)
- Churches (6.9%)

Expenses = $696,813
- Management & General (15.8%)
- Fundraising (9.1%)

Individual Giving (76.3%)
- Workplace Campaign (2.3%)
- In-kind Contributions (.9%)
- Direct from Individuals (73.1%)

Programs (75.1%)

Partnerships
Hattie M. Strong Foundation
John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation
Foundation (Anonymous)

McLean Bible Church
Zion Church

Golf Tournament Sponsors

GEORGE DUNN
Aberdeen
Asset management
CALAMOS
CASSADAY & COMPANY, INC
Charrwell Investment Partners
Cornerstone
WESTFIELD CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
DEUTSCHE ASSET
EATON VANCE
Federated
ROBERT & PATRICIA JEPSEN
Bobcat Capital Management
PINE GROVE
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of The House DC, Inc.

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La Wonda Bornstein
President & CEO
The House DC

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The House Staff

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Ray Bornstein
Andrea Counts
Darius Edwards
Marian Guirguis
Henry Hall
Jonathan Harris
LaBaron Houston
Deborah Jackson
Rita Jackson
Tony Lowery
Candace Roper
JT Thompson
Renovation was complete early in 2014 for the building located at 1610 17th Street, SE (adjacent to our first location). Our hope is to use this facility for our Next Level Program. In order to lessen the impact of poverty, lack of education, lack of employment, and low self-esteem, the Next Level Program seeks to empower the lives of at-risk young adults by establishing a life skills and academic program. Through training and career development, we will help to develop and identify gifts, talents, and skills into marketable job skills.

Specific Needs:

1. Raise $2.5 million dollars over a 5 year period.
2. New Furniture & Fixtures
3. New carpet throughout the building
4. 25 new computers
5. Two new color laser printers
6. High-end security camera system
7. Pavement for parking
8. Computer network hardware and installation

Building Needs in 1606 and 1600:
4 New Air Conditioning Units, 4 tons

But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, FORBEARANCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS and SELF-CONTROL. Against such things THERE IS NO LAW.

Galatians 5:22-23

GUY SPEERS has partnered with The House for over 10 years. For the past six years he served on the Board of Directors. Guy is an example of what it means to be a servant-leader. His humility, wisdom, compassion, and love continue to bless the lives of inner city youth and their families, as well as House staff.