From the President

I've heard that it takes about 20 years to turn a community around. The House has been working towards this goal for eleven years. We are entering a new decade and continue to be excited and feel privileged to make a difference in Washington, D.C. However, there are so many challenges in our community that at times it seems overwhelming. So how do we keep going? We remember the greatest Commandment.

Matthew 22:37-39, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

Loving God and our community makes the difference. Isn't it amazing to know that God loves us because of who He is, and not because of whom we are or what we have or haven't done. There are no conditions with love, it is unconditional. Our Secretary of the Board, Jim Moore, has such a poetic explanation of how he sees love:

- When you love something you are obsessed with it.
  Its welfare is on your mind.
  You sacrifice for it.
- When you love something you long to see it flourish.
  You see its beauty.
  You are for it.
  You tell its story to everyone around you.
- When you love something you hope for better days.
  You celebrate its success.

It has been a blessing to see how our donors love The House and the community we serve. It's demonstrated continuously through prayers, contributions, and support. To all of our donors, thank you for living out the greatest Commandment.

Sincerely,

La Wonda Harris
This fall's retreat was just as miraculous and spectacular as the beautiful mountains that surround Camp Manidokan, in Knoxville, MD. All encountered God with 18 students committing or recommitting their lives to Christ and the staff being spiritually strengthened and renewed. "Takers" was the theme with Joshua 6:2 and 6:20 emphasizing the necessity of students aggressively pursuing God and availing themselves to what He has already declared in His Word. Students were reminded that the devil's agenda is to steal, kill, and destroy all the glory that belongs to God, and we are to "take back."

One of the greatest experiences of the retreat is when students share what is on their hearts. This transparency helps them see that everyone struggles with something in their lives, and we all need God's help.

House staff member (and former House student) Darius Edwards gave a powerful devotion on choices. He connected with students as he shared from his own life and encouraged students to make choices that would please God.

"The Miracle at Midnight" allowed students to be outside at midnight, connected, arm-in-arm, with their eyes closed to listen and experience God's miracle of peace and quiet. Students shared what they heard on the mountain as opposed to what they usually hear at home.

The weekend closed with an assignment for students to "Write a Letter to God," expressing to Him any and everything that they were feeling on the retreat. They were to express their concerns, hopes, and dreams. The letters were sealed and will be returned at the Spring retreat. At that
time students will be asked to remember commitments made to God, and to judge themselves on their spiritual progress.

A student in the group made a statement as the retreat came to a close; it was affirmed by other male students as well. “I want Warren to help me to be the man God wants me to be.” This is an example of the many transformations that took place at Camp Manidokan with the power of God working in the lives of students. Program Director Andrea Counts described the retreat with one word: change. Christ was embraced by the students and change took place in a moment for all eternity.

“One of the greatest experiences of the retreat is when students share what is on their hearts.”

BELOW: Youth Pastor, Warren Smith (front row, right) and The House students signature pose.
Latasa had a fractured family life. She experienced abuse, homelessness, teen pregnancy, and then dropped out of high school. She also lost custody of her child.

Latasa is an example of one whose life could have ended up as another negative statistic of inner-city life. Fortunately, with help from House staff and others, she overcame immense obstacles.

Latasa has earned a diploma and culinary training through the Job Corps and has been hired as a chef in an upscale area grocery store. After moving into her own apartment she was granted custody of her child.

At the final court hearing, the judge came down from the bench and hugged Latasa. She congratulated and encouraged her to keep moving forward.

Latasa has seen God’s hand of deliverance in her young life. Family reconciliations have taken place, along with all of the other miracles that He has demonstrated in caring for her, as she has put her trust in Him.

---

**THE WORD ON THE HOUSE**

**Contributing Writers & Editors:**
Lou Ann Sabatier
Janis Ferry
La Wonda Harris
Fatima Armstead

**Design & Layout:**
Jessica Watson
www.jwatsoncreative.com

---

**30% Unemployment in Ward 8**

With an unemployment rate in Ward 8 of 30%, we are always looking for ways to help our community. The House offered free Employment Search Skills Seminars to Ward 8 residents. The half-day seminar included topics such as how to find employment, how to write a resume, dressing for success, and how to interview.

A unique feature of this seminar is that it provides ideas on how to start a small business. While people are out of work or need to do something on the side to earn income, they can use this information to “think outside the box” and apply some helpful tips as they search for employment.

Attendees received materials and a Certificate of Completion. We hope to provide more seminars in the future as well as working with businesses to help those in our community find jobs.
Touring College Campuses

The House partnered with a Rockville, MD high school and a Sorority which allowed House students to visit colleges in four states. The 3-day tour consisted of visiting HBCUs [Historically Black Colleges & Universities] in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

House staff Jonathan Harris, Life Skills and Academic Director, led the group of 12 students which included freshmen through seniors. Jonathan shares, "I want to expose younger students so that a seed is planted and gives them hope. I want them to be motivated to focus and apply themselves in school so that they have a better chance of getting accepted and doing well in college. What I have found with our seniors that attend these tours is that they like the colleges, but because they have not applied themselves in their early high school years and have a low GPA, they can't get into a lot of schools."

Gaia, one of our students who attended the college tour says, "I had never been to any of these states. I met interesting people and learned that while college looks fun, it’s not easy and you have to work hard. Many students don’t know about college, but if they took this college tour, they would want to go. I want to be successful.” Gaia plans to attend college after she graduates in 2012 and then pursue a law degree.

My home!!! If it wasn’t for the house I wouldn’t be in the place I am at right now. Thank God for The House D.C.

I love the House, it saved my life countless times!!!!

...W/O this place rite here u probably would not kno who we R...

Salute to the HOUSE DC- We are who we are becauz of them, not only that we are alive because of them, Imma take it 1 step further - We Love God becauz of them

lookin back on how i got to this point brings tears to my eyes. i thank my grandma everyday for not giving up on me but I never really thank THE HOUSE DC for showing me the love of God they had for me. A love that every person need in order to grow & live. I'm living because of The House & Warren Smith thanks for filling the spot of my father an showing that u cared. Andrea Counts thanks for opening ur arms and letting me faaaaallllll right in them. Nakia T. Smith thank u for the prayers that u say for me. thank all of u & I love ya
Back to School

Since 2005 three House students graduated as valedictorians from Anacostia High School. The House comes alongside Anacostia High students and encourages postsecondary schooling and training. This is reinforced by taking students to college fairs and exposing them to diverse careers. The House staff also assists students in SAT Prep, FAFSA-applications, college applications, and transition into their new settings.

Postsecondary endeavors for House students run the gamut from trade schools to career schools and community colleges to four-year universities. Some of the colleges that House students are attending, among others, include: Prince George’s Community College (MD), Trinity College (DC), Hampton University (VA), Garrett Community College (MD), Allegheny Community College (PA), Shaw University (NC), Florida Memorial College (FL), West Hills College (CA), University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (AK), and Lincoln Tech.

This year, Jonathan Harris and Academic Coordinator, Jennifer Hilton, spent countless hours helping students prepare for their beginning semester. Blessings reigned in the form of donated items for students.

One of our students, Andre’, returned to Garrett Community College full of anticipation. Majoring in Juvenile Justice, he is doing well. Jonathan is assisting him in planning his academic pursuits while attending Garrett, and afterwards. “It is such a pleasure to see students like Andre’ striving and thriving in college,” says Jonathan.

House students face a myriad of challenges before and after being accepted by colleges. Academic deficiencies and financial limitations are two of the greatest challenges. With most being first-generation collegians, parents are often unfamiliar with what is required to be successful in college. They rely heavily on the aid of House staff in assisting their children. Some are faced with disadvantages immediately if they cannot afford textbooks and other necessary amenities. Along with the typical challenges of college, limited exposure to other cultures and locations magnify the struggles for inner city students. In addition, staff at the colleges are not used to working with inner-city students.

We face challenges as we endeavor to assist students. However, we encourage students to maintain their academic focus, as well as spiritual focus.”

We face challenges as we endeavor to assist students. However, we encourage students to maintain their academic focus, as well as spiritual focus.
This year’s Annual Fall Golf Tournament was held at TPC Potomac at Avenel, one of the premiere golf courses in the area. It was a beautiful day and the golfers enjoyed the event, with participants raising a net profit of $41,000!

The tournament was followed by an evening of live music, a barbeque, a silent auction and a live auction of an autographed electric guitar from The Rolling Stones which sold for $3,500. It ended with a surprise birthday cake for House Advisory Board and Golf Committee member, John Yetman.

Golf Chairman, Edward Tarbutter did a wonderful job organizing this event, and getting new sponsors. George Dunn was once again our Golf Tournament Sponsor. Thank you Dina Yetman for chairing our silent auction, and thank you to all our Golf Tournament Sponsors listed below who helped to make this event successful.

This Tournament Was Made Possible By:

TOURNAMENT SPONSOR:
GEORGE DUNN

PLATINUM SPONSORS:
THE LYNCH GROUP
JOHN YETMAN

GOLD SPONSORS:
FRIESS ASSOCIATES
ADAM GOJDAJU
POINTER MANAGEMENT
SANDS CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

SILVER SPONSORS:
ARTIO GLOBAL INVESTORS
BETHESDA HOME MORTGAGE
CALANOS INVESTMENTS
CASSADAY & COMPANY
GRISANTI BROWN & PARTNERS
INVECSO POWERSHARES
JANIER ENTERPRISES - POPEYES
LEG MASON
MCCANDLISH & LILLARD
RICHARD SCHACHT
STATE STREET ADVISORS
MICHAEL TOOEY

BRONZE SPONSORS:
DIAMOND HILL CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
BUGGENHEIM FUNDS
KENNEDY CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
LAZARO ASSET MANAGEMENT
M&T BANK
MARSH MCCLEAN, WELLS FARGO ADVISORS
NAIXIS GLOBAL ASSOCIATES
OHIO NATIONAL
PERMANENT PORTFOLIO FUNDS
PINE GROVE ASSOCIATES
DAVE & RYAN STUART
WESTFIELD CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
A Glance at 2010

Help With 50,000

There are many things that House staff do which often go unmentioned. One of them being accompanying students to their court cases. While accompanying a student, Andrea Counts had an opportunity to speak with the attending judge on behalf of The House student.

She was allowed to explain to the judge and court what The House input had been in the student’s life, and the changes in the student that she had noticed since the time of the infraction. After explaining The House’s mission, vision, and accomplishments, the judge made an astounding statement. Very soberly, he said, “I have about 50,000 more young people that I would like to send to you. Clearly you are needed in more areas than Southeast DC.”

Somewhat taken aback, Andrea explained that The House’s ministry does not have the resources for accommodating such numbers, but thanked him for his vote of confidence.

The student was given a second chance, and the Lord glorified through the testimony of yet another life transformed through His power.

HOUSE LEADERSHIP

Advisory Board:
Ken Starr, Chairman
Rickey Bolden, Co-founder
Kathleen Walsh Carr
George Dunn
Dr. Joel Freeman
La Wonda Harris
Greg Holmes
Sandy Lowe
Philip O’Connor
Jeff Palmucci
Guy Speers
Alice Starr
John Yetman

Board of Directors:
Guy Speers, Chairman
Karen Curry
Sieve Fitzhugh, Co-founder
La Wonda Harris
Jim Moore, Secretary
Sieve Park
Paulette Ricks
C. Dale Steinhauser, Treasurer

Staff:
La Wonda Harris, President
Fatima Armstead
Chris Chiles
Andrea Counts
Darius Edwards
Darlene Hall
Jonathan Harris
Jennifer Hilton
Candace Krieger
Janis Perry
Warren Smith
JT Thompson