AYANA faithfully attended The House DC and oftentimes would go to La Wonda’s office and talk. Today, she works full-time for The House DC and works directly with La Wonda. Ayana received her B.S. Degree in Psychology and is excited to be working at The House.

DONNELL used to sing in our recording studio. He is now married with two children and is a worship leader. He received his A.A. in Early Childhood Education and is a Special Education Teacher.

CRYSTAL was a mentee of House co-founder Steve Fitzhugh through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She was our first receptionist and is now pursuing her Master’s Degree in Public Administration. She received her B.S. degree in Business Management.

BRYAN was one of the first student leaders at The House. He is now working with The House to help start a weekly community Bible study. He is a minister and works as a licensed massage therapist.

JENNIFER used to sing in our recording studio and at our annual banquets. She is now a police officer and blessed us with a song at our 20 Year Alumni Event.
LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

When The House DC first opened in November of 1999, everyone was excited about what the coming year would hold.

Turning on the lights and throwing open the doors was a dream come true after years of planning and meetings. At that moment, I don’t think anyone could have imagined what The House DC would look like in 20 years.

When I joined The House in 2001, we were still in triage mode. I was focused on tending to The House’s immediate needs and fortifying operations so that we could fulfill our promise of being a stable and dependable force in Anacostia. We were full of hope, but it was difficult to see beyond our next few steps.

In the founding days, we dreamed of building a team and a space to support Anacostia. Today, The House is no longer just a space for the community—it’s a space created by the community as well. Nowadays, half of our day-to-day staff is comprised of former House students. Our focus is currently on developing our in-House team to lead spiritually and operationally.

Our theme for 2020 is 20/20 vision. We will always need logistical support, but we are proud to be in a place where we can see clearly into the future and dare to envision the full potential of The House.

This kind of success happens through hard work and a lot of help from faithful donors who have invested in us. The House DC is a family—the staff, volunteers, and donors are all essential components of creating lasting change. Thank you for partnering with us and offering your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. I hope you will be encouraged as you review our 2019 Annual Report celebrating the last 20 years.

As we plan for our future, I look forward to the day when I get to read an Annual Report prepared by a former House student who has grown up to become the President & CEO.

Sincerely,

La Wonda Bornstein
President & CEO
Since opening its doors in 1999, The House DC has been a sanctuary for inner-city youth who live in some of the most violent and poverty-stricken neighborhoods in the metropolitan area.

The House DC was founded in a building that used to be a crack house on a street Anacostia police christened, “Murder Row.” Now, in this same building, we are breaking cycles of poverty, homelessness, incarceration, and unemployment by providing at-risk youth and young adults in Anacostia with comprehensive services to help them establish healthy and sustainable futures.

We provide programs for personal and spiritual growth, nutritional support, and artistic outlets, as well as academic mentorship and job training that prepares students for their next stage of life. We work directly with each of our students to understand their needs, help cultivate their talents, and build a supportive community.

The House DC is a trusted resource of Anacostia schools as well as local police and judicial systems. We help transform the lives of thousands of young people and their families by providing safety, stability, and service to our community.
By the numbers:

- 100% of House DC Seniors Graduated from High School
- 70% of our staff are Former House Students and/or from the community we serve
- 73 New Followers of Jesus
- 1,100 Youth Served
- 10,631 Meals Provided
- 68 Leadership/Discipleship Participants
- 80% Achieved Academic/Career goals in Life Skills
- 612 Christmas gifts were distributed
OUR STAFF
Meet our staff and enjoy some fun facts.

Former House students now employed by The House DC and working with us to make a difference!

Britney Brown Smith
Program Manager
“I can easily spend 1 hour in CVS picking out the perfect nail polish.”

Keith Kelly
Producer & Audio Engineer
“I’m an introvert who likes being around people.”

Harry Brown
Security
“I’ve always wanted to drive the back end of a fire truck.”

La Wonda Bornstein
President & CEO
“I’ve always wanted to direct traffic at a busy intersection.”

Chris Chiles
Spiritual Life Director
“I didn’t attend my prom, but I’ve DJ’d 30.”

Eric Darrington
Chef
“I’m a chef who only eats once a day.”

ADDITIONAL STAFF

Rob Barnes
Rita Jackson
Datjuan Johnson
Gabe Pendleton
Sarsha Brown
Keyonte Harkum
DJ Owen
Khree Williams

YOUTH/COMMUNITY STAFF

THE HOUSE DC 20TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL REPORT
Dequwan Smith
Activities Manager
“I’m the funniest guy I know, and one day I want to win Ninja Warrior!”

Ayana Smith
Accounting & Development Assistant
“My favorite food is glizzys—a DC name for hotdogs.”

Jacob Johnson
Lyrics & Performance Coach
“I’m totally afraid of heights, but I love roller coasters.”

Jonathan Harris
Executive Director, Life Skills
“When I talk, I’m long-winded; but I really don’t like to talk.”

Terrill Jackson
Facilities Manager
“I love king crab legs—call me when you get them!”

Kimberly Hall
Director of Operations & Assistant to the President
“I like shopping and watching gangsta movies!”

70% FORMER HOUSE STUDENTS/COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON STAFF
SPIRITUAL LIFE

The credit for our success belongs to God, who gave us a VISION 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.
Life Sessions—voluntary gatherings where Biblical lessons and Scriptures are applied to everyday life, and questions about the Bible are discussed in a relaxed setting. The goal is to be as relevant as possible and address the challenging issues youth may face, enabling them to encounter Christ in their own time and in their own way.

Retreats—an opportunity for students to connect with God away from the danger, distractions, and pressures of their daily lives. Staff prepare for each retreat so that our youth can have fun and inspiring life-changing encounters.

The MUD: We walk—we pray. Launched in 2019, members of the MUD (Millennial United Disciples) walk the streets of Anacostia praying for and with people in the community. The walk covers the neighborhoods most people avoid, providing people who feel “to dirty” to step into a church an opportunity to receive prayer and to witness God’s love at work.
YOUTH OUTREACH

High Schools

Anacostia Senior High School:
Held lunchtime activities and sports conditioning; distributed formal wear for prom attendees.

Ballou Senior High School:
Provided 24 weeks of mentorship and job preparation to young men.

“The House DC is a great asset to the community, the youth and the school. They play a pivotal role in the development of the whole child.”

— Nia Nicholas, Anacostia Staff
Extended Reach

In addition to the onsite activities at Anacostia and Ballou, The House DC served students from schools throughout the Washington, DC area:

- Anacostia High School
- Ballou High School
- Cesar Chavez
- Eastern Senior High School
- Friendship Collegiate
- Luke C. Moore
- Maya Angelou
- New Beginnings Vocational School
MENTORING & LEADERSHIP

The LIT Squad:

Leaders In Training is a group of students who demonstrate leadership skills. They are taught positive uses of their leadership skills and have opportunities to plan and lead.

“Honestly I was shocked that I got picked to be a part of the ‘L.I.T’ squad. I always knew that I could be a good leader I just never got the chance. In L.I.T we talk about important things we need to know to become leaders in the future and even now in our community.”

— 12th grade student
BROS:
(Building Relationships, Overcoming Obstacles, Surviving these Streets) keeps young men engaged in positive activities and discussions during the summer months.

“I really appreciate y’all caring about me. It’s not a lot of people who do. Taking time from your weekend to spend time with me means a lot to me.”

— 10th grade student
Prop Outings:
Weekly outings are offered as incentives to encourage academic performance and participation in House programs, and to expose the students to the world beyond their neighborhood. Students earn points, referred to as “Props.” It is derived from the term, “proper respect,” which is given to those deserving of respect for their actions.

Year-end Trip:
Each summer, nine “Top Prop” students are awarded an all-expense paid trip. Their “supreme” level of engagement and leadership earns them recognition as The House DC’s “Supreme Court” and the opportunity to travel to places like New York, Florida, California, and Virginia Beach.
Life Skills Education affirms the self-worth of young adults by spring-boarding them into their desired careers and preparing them to become responsible adults who establish strong family structures and make positive contributions to society.

Since the introduction of Life Skills Education, The House has partnered with over 21 colleges, universities, Job Corps, and education programs. Our 2019 accomplishments include:

- Served 57 participants, including House DC alumni
- Supported six College Students and one study abroad
- Leadership Training
- Job Preparation
- High School/GED Support
- Marriage and Parenting support

80% ACHIEVED ACADEMIC/ CAREER GOALS
“Traveling allowed me to learn more about myself, develop cross-cultural management, meet new friends, and speak French! I am blessed to have been able to broaden my horizons in both Senegal and Morocco.”

— House College Junior, Tija
— Mike at Shaw University
COMMUNITY

The House DC serves our immediate community in Southeast Washington, DC and surrounding areas. We also serve families from Maryland.

Weekly Distribution of Groceries

Each Sunday we distribute free groceries to help feed our youth and their families, community members, and others in the surrounding areas. The groceries include plenty of fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and include items that some persons might never have been able to purchase or experience.
“My young children and I enjoy the warm atmosphere on Sundays! The fresh produce and bread helps my household so much. We also feel extremely lucky when we can get blessed with meat or poultry, because it takes a huge worry off of me and I do not have to worry about not having funds to go to the grocery store.”

— R’shella

Give Back Thursdays
House youth proudly give back to their own community by feeding the homeless, cleaning the community, and assisting the elderly.
MEDIA, LOCAL & GLOBAL OUTREACH

The House DC was invited to participate in a mission trip to Zambia.

Zion Church and two “Friends of The House” families sponsored the trip for a few House staff. La Wonda Bornstein presented a training class to staff parents caring for 105 orphans.

Spiritual Life Director, Chris Chiles shared a Gospel message and a powerful rap to inspire the Zambian youth.
The impact of The House DC was featured on two radio stations:

WAVA 105.1 (a partnership of OneHeartDC) and WGTS 91.9. You can listen to the segments on The House DC website.

Duke University Divinity School highlighted our work in its newsletter, noting:

“The House DC offers hot meals, a safe space and a sense of community to at-risk teens.”

The World Series Champions Washington Nationals hosted their Annual Faith Day, which provides $5.00 for each ticket sold through its Faith Day site to The House DC and showcases our promotional video. In 2019, 1,320 tickets were sold.
20 YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

The House DC was birthed out of racial unity. A predominately White church in suburban Virginia joined with a predominantly Black church in DC to obtain and transform three abandoned buildings from drug houses into The House DC.

Their commitment has made a powerful, lasting impact on a neglected community in our Nation’s Capital.

Years 1 – 5
- Washington Post Article
- Featured on NBC 4 News
- Celebrated 5th Anniversary!

Years 5 – 10
- Building 1600 is Renovated
- First Student Valedictorian
- First group of youth baptized
- First group of 10 attend college
- Featured on PBS Religion & Ethics Newsweekly
- Celebrated 10th Anniversary!
Years 10 – 15

- High school Valedictorian graduates college
- Former House student goes to Ghana to train at youth program
- Building 1610 is renovated pro bono
- 20 Youth attend college
- Celebrated 15th Anniversary!

Years 15 – 20

- First Alumni Wedding at The House
- Youth outreach to homeless & community
- 15-Year Case Study Completed
- 50% of Youth Outreach staff are former House students
- Featured on WAVA 105.1 and WGTS 91.1
- Celebrated 20th Anniversary!
SPONSORS

Thank you to our sponsors and partners!

James & Regina Williams
George Dunn
Tiffany Butcher
Frank & Florence Marshall
Chad & Allison Morgan
Jonathan & Heather Ansley

Robert & Corrine Di Trollo
Ken & Brittany Fleming
Scott & Jane Lee
Drew & Robin Meyer
Ken & Alice Starr
Mike & Lisa Toohey

Richard & Patti Schacht
Chris & Kim Bush
James & Lelia Ivery
Ludmilla Parnell
We Love Amy
Robert McDonald
Thank you to our faithful volunteers!
You make a difference!

Rachel Brown
Sasha Brown
Jayme Caldwell
Christina Doeter
George Dunn
Kate Engbert
Bryan Harris
Daniesha Owens
Paulette Ricks
Amy Solis

Abi Speers
Susan Speers
Gina Williams
John Yetman

"Over my 20-year involvement with The House golf tournament, it has been truly moving to watch the enduring commitment by The House staff in impacting the lives of so many young men and women providing them with a foundation of love and peer acceptance and a hope for a brighter future.

Well done La Wonda and your entire team!"

— George Dunn, Tournament Sponsor
2019 FINANCIALS

Revenue
Total: $1,093,737

- 84% Individual Giving
- 8% Church Giving
- 4% Corporate Giving
- 4% Grants

Expenses
Total: $1,069,363

- 70% Program (staff, youth, outreach, etc.)
- 18% G&A (staff, supplies, overhead, etc.)
- 12% Development (staff, fundraising events, planning, etc.)
In loving memory of George & Maria Elena Thigpen (above), our oldest and longest-serving volunteer couple at The House DC. Both went to be with the Lord in 2018. Their unwavering prayers, encouragement, financial support, and fearless commitment to The House DC were an immeasurable blessing and we loved them dearly.

FUTURE NEEDS & PLANS

The House DC team is coming up with creative ways to continue providing support, resources, and a sense of spiritual community to our Anacostia family.

In light of the social distancing challenges posed by COVID-19, The House DC is taking to the streets in a new way! We will be making our resources mobile by delivering groceries, prayer, and the Gospel to our community by way of a bus or truck. (Think “food truck” style support system!)

We are currently looking for a commercial vehicle and a 12-15 passenger van.

If you can help, please contact: communications@thehousedc.org

Mailing Address
PO Box 30958
Washington, DC 20030

Physical Administrative Office
1610 17th Street, S.E.
Washington, DC 20020

Youth Outreach Building
1600 17th Street, S.E.
Washington, DC 20020

www.thehousedc.org | info@thehousedc.org

Follow us @thehousedc
Britney Smith, 2019 Published Author, House DC Program Manager, and former House Student, ends our 20th Year with an inspiring poem:

FATHER GOD

I come humbly Lord to Your throne
To give the glory to You alone
To acknowledge You, oh Mighty One
For all the many things You’ve done
For trusting me, with Your youth
To lead them on, and teach them truth

For keeping them warm throughout the winter
For providing every home-cooked dinner
For protection when they’re full of fear
For redirection, when threats are near
With bullets flying left and right
Shooting guns in broad daylight
Yet You get them safely back to me
And the rest of the family at The House DC
You keep our doors open wide
Over 20 years of love on the Southside

Thank You, Lord!
If I had thousands of tongues
I still would need more

Thanks for giving us the victory
And for shining Your light on The House DC.