The House DC is proud to say that not only did Linae walk across the graduation stage, but she was also accepted to the nursing program at Winston Salem University. When Linae informed staff that she had no resources to get to Winston Salem, we loaded up a van and accompanied Linae to North Carolina. We also set up her dorm and provided her with everything she needed to succeed as a freshman, the first in her entire family.

Many of us know the stressors and excitement of a college freshman, either from personal experience or through our loved ones. Acclimating to campus life, adjusting to a new academic system, and trying to spread your wings amongst a group of strangers all while balancing dependence and independence. But just knowing that tonight, tomorrow, next week, and even next month, Linae has somewhere to lay her head and call home is a blessing for her— one that brings security, confidence, and peace of mind. What a difference a year can make! It is because of generous donors like yourself that The House DC has been able to make a profound difference in this young lady's life.

When we commit our plans to the Lord, we trust that He will see them through. We trust that God will continue to guide Linae and order her steps. Linae has big plans for success, and we know that God’s plans are even bigger. Proverbs 16:3
**PEACE**

"I just got to make it."

The Anacostia community is one in which violence can strike at any moment. Regardless of the time or day, anyone can become a target. However, our students know that The House DC is a safe base.

Traveling through the community is dangerous for me. I have to be careful. As long as I make it to The House DC, I know I will be safe. I just got to make it.
— 11th-grade student

At The House DC, Staff understands how imperative it is to be a safe haven in the community. The House DC offers youth a place of peace where they don’t have to look over their shoulders or worry in fear. Staff monitor the front porch and sidewalks to watch students approach from all directions, and we ensure the safety of our students once they are inside. We also accompany students to metro stations, offering them safe passage from The House DC to home. No student leaves The House DC without prayer. Every night at dismissal, House DC staff covers students in prayer for safety as they make it back home to their families.

While serving on the front lines, we have to be spiritually prepared for battle through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. “For over 23 years, God has protected The House and the youth inside. I remember being a House student who felt safe and protected. That feeling is still here to this day,” says Britney Smith, Program Director.

**JOY**

Breaking Cycles

Last year we reported that we were assisting young people with obtaining their licenses. Today we are celebrating a new career that is in direct correlation of having a legitimate permit. For years David drove for necessity and pleasure like most young people who live in DC. We sometimes take for granted privileges and access that is given to us without even thinking twice. Take for instance, driving privileges, access to driver’s education, whether given by the school or having the financial resources to pay for private lessons. The fact is, driver’s education is not offered in the DC public schools, and young people who live in poverty cannot afford private lessons.

This is the reality for most of the young people that we serve. But last year we started a campaign to assist young people with their learners and license permit and David was one of the first ones to obtain his learners and license permit with the assistance of The House DC. Having a legitimate permit allowed him to secure a job with Amazon as a delivery person. Today he is working and has just applied to the United States Postal Service with the goal of being a union employee driver for USPS. This is a career goal and a life changing move.

Having the ability to change the trajectory of one’s life with counsel, love and financial support is what makes breaking another bad cycle while building a bright future The House DC’s goal.
KINDNESS
More Alumni in The House!

We are always blessed to see former students roll up their sleeves and give back to the community. Serving in the same place where they were once served is one of the biggest honors for The House DC staff. The House DC assists hard-to-reach young individuals from rough situations to reach their goals and follow their dreams. Serving our youth is our primary vehicle to show our love for them, and more importantly, God's love for them. Although our youth have become familiar with the feeling of being served, serving others allows them to see a different perspective. Over the years, alumni have returned to The House DC to work with our students in a variety of ways including mentorship, culinary skills training, life skills training, and leading our social and emotional programs.

“I never really realized how much work it took to feed students every night. As a student, I was so busy having fun that I didn’t see the hard work that goes into making sure everyone gets a plate for dinner. I volunteer because The House has done so much for me. I want these new students to have the same experience that I had,” says House DC alumni, Faith.

House DC staff works hard to plant seeds of hope into the lives of our youth. As the years pass, we continue to water those seeds until, finally, we see growth. We are overjoyed when alumni return. This means far more than just having extra help….our young people have overcome potentially devastating obstacles, and now they want to pay it forward. This is full cycle.

PATIENCE
Hoods Up, Hands On!

The House DC is excited to offer our students hands-on entry-level mechanical skills, including learning how to change the oil, maintaining brakes and rotors, changing a tire, and more. We are well aware that these skills are not taught in schools and don’t come naturally to many people, yet they are critical in times of emergency. Our hope is that providing hands-on mechanical training over time will also spark new career passions. We want to offer students the opportunity to patiently explore their gifts until they uncover that special talent that they didn’t even know existed.

It is important to teach our youth skills like these so they can carry them throughout life. There are a lot of people who don’t know how to change their tire in case of an emergency. There are no trades in the schools. There are no local free mechanical programs for youth, so we created one.

The House continues to incorporate new programs that light the engine in our students’ souls and drives them to success. Our youth deserve a fighting chance at life. It is our duty to equip them for battle. Whether we are teaching them to cook, produce music, do hair and makeup, or change a tire, our youth have resources within their reach.
That's DOPE!

The House DC provides several exciting programs to prepare our youth to connect with others, enhance their spiritual growth, make good decisions, solve problems, work in teams and become fully engaged and focused on their futures. Our programs include culinary arts, studio engineering, health and wellness, and much more. These programs are designed to build long-lasting, genuine relationships with our students, to offer leadership and life skills, and to ignite new hobbies and habits, all while introducing them to the kingdom of God.

D.O.P.E (Discipling Our young People Effectively) is one of our most popular programs. During D.O.P.E sessions, students gather in a quiet space to dig deeper into the word of God on a level they understand. Students feel encouraged and unashamed to ask questions and gain clarity on all things pertaining to faith. D.O.P.E sessions also include book studies that challenge students to think big. Currently, students are reading “The Magic of Thinking Big.”

I want students to think bigger. I want them to understand how powerful their minds truly are. God created us with powerful minds. I want to encourage them to think big.

— Willy, House DC staff

All of our programs are designed to reach our youth where they are. Our group sessions are essential to help students navigate their way through some of the most challenging years of their lives. We are breaking cycles of pain and building futures of praise. There may be a lot of bumps and curves in their stories, however, we trust that all things work together for good. Romans 8:28

Celebrating 100% Graduation Rate!

Programs

Step Up Fitness
D.O.P.E
L.I.T (Leaders In Training)
S.W.A.T (Stop, Write, And Talk)
Art & Soul
C.O.O.L Chefs (Cooking Out Of Love)
B.R.O.S (Building Relationships, Overcoming obstacles, Surviving the streets)
S.L.A.Y (Sistaz Living in Awe for Yahweh)
Come U.N.I.T.Y (Understanding the Needs, In The walls of Your Community)
GOODNESS

Hope on Good Hope Road

“We call this no hope road,” said a middle-aged man as we handed out hot cooked meals and hygiene products on Good Hope Road in Southeast, DC. Each week The House DC Outreach team serves under-resourced populations hot meals and essential supplies and clothing to meet physical needs, establish relationships, restore dignity, and provide hope to people who possess a lethal absence of hope.

In a place where people are blinded in despair, we are standing in the gap as hope is revealed. We understand that whether it’s youth or adults, you have to meet people where they are in life. Our motto for our street ministry is that before we can share the Gospel, we have to be the Gospel. There is hope on Good Hope Road indeed, because of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

GENTLENESS

Soul Care

Have you ever considered the care of your soul? As life happens, as we experience perilous times in our world, as we face adversity on every side fueled by disappointment, it is extremely essential that we care for the soul. Here at The House DC we are intentionally engaged in doing the ongoing work of nourishing and nurturing one’s soul or heart in partnership with God’s Spirit. We are actively shepherding our staff in Bible study, weekly devotions, and monthly capacity development trainings. Our meal outings and retreats allow staff to get away, refresh, and strengthen our team so that we are ready to meet the daily challenges of the revolving doors at The House.

In addition, we pastor community members at our food distributions, through prayer and conversation earning the right to speak Biblical truth into their lives. Community members have access to physical food to meet their immediate needs and spiritual food that’s good for the soul.
SELF-CONTROL
A Changed Life

Jamal first came to The House DC during his freshman year of High School. On edge and always ready to fight, Jamal struggled to stay off suspension, and was failing all of his classes. The House DC staff welcomed Jamal with loving arms and he absolutely lit up when he saw our kitchen. We learned quickly that Jamal loved to cook and had aspirations of becoming a chef. Chef Eric took Jamal under his wing in the kitchen, preparing meals each day for dinner. After a few months, Jamal confided in the staff that he lived with his seven siblings and his father was quite ill. He also shared how much better he felt to release steam in the kitchen instead of fighting.

Jamal's grades began to rise, he was no longer getting suspended, and was spending more time strengthening his culinary skills. We were saddened to learn from Jamal that his father passed away. Jamal was devastated by the loss yet remained close to his siblings and close to The House DC. Staff walked along side Jamal throughout his time of grieving. Jamal did not revert back to his old ways, rather he continued on his new path, pressing forward to accomplish his goals.

Today Jamal is an honor roll senior applying to colleges. Jamal is the secretary of the student government and a proud member of the school band. We are so proud of the strides Jamal has made. We know that he is destined for success.

"I don't fight anymore. All of that is behind me. I have a future to focus on. I have big dreams." — Jamal
23RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank You to Our 2022 Golf Tournament Sponsors! We Raised $87,000
COMING SOON
The Gina & La Wonda Show
Friends, Gina Williams & La Wonda Bornstein talk about the life of Jesus and incorporates examples of serving in Southeast at The House DC.

WELLS FARGO CHAMPIONSHIP
Thank you for raising $30,000 for The House DC
The House DC was one of the recipients of the Wells Fargo Championship held this year. Thank you for donating $30,000 towards helping The House DC make a difference in southeast Washington, DC.

4TH ANNUAL CANDY CORN 5K
Thank you to our 2022 5k Sponsors for helping us raise $35,000!

2022 Sponsors: RSWCPA Tiffany Butcher

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