U.S. Army Veteran Dusty Lee was homeless and staying at the New York Avenue Men's Emergency Shelter when he met Friendship Place case manager Nisha Vashisht.

“Nisha’s crew showed up at the shelter and picked out vets from the line. They gave me some paperwork to fill out, asked me a whole bunch of questions, and then said their team would get on it as soon as possible. Less than two weeks later, I was on Nisha’s caseload.”

“Every need that I had was addressed by Friendship Place. I was provided references for I.D., birth certificate, medical, legal. I was provided travel accommodation to view multiple rentals. I was provided with three months’ rent and optional dishes and a bed. I was provided with job search assistance, proper attire, and transportation to maintain employment.”

Mr. Lee now works security at Dior and other high-end boutiques and lives in College Park, Maryland.

“I was so excited when Nisha finally got me a place. Now I’m financially stable. I’m still in the red, but climbing out. Now, I’m not just living paycheck to paycheck. I’m actually incrementally going forward. I have a dresser, a chair. I haven’t been able to buy that stuff in over three years. It’s pretty fantastic.”

Mr. Lee is currently enrolled at the University of Maryland University College, studying cyber security. “Next up on my agenda is to buy myself a computer and then I can start knocking out online courses, which, with the post 9/11 GI bill, I’ll get paid to go to school.”

On his experience working with Friendship Place, Mr. Lee says “You guys rock! And Nisha is the best!”
Dear Friend,

What a long way we’ve come since Friendship Place’s founders met around kitchen tables and in congregation basements 25 years ago to brainstorm ways to help their homeless neighbors in Upper NW DC! Could they have imagined the vibrant, impactful, influential organization that Friendship Place would become?

Whether you’ve been part of the Friendship Place community since the early days or have just recently joined us as a volunteer or donor, thank you so much for helping us change the lives of 2,600 people this past year!

Since our founding, the national conversation around homeless services has undergone a profound transformation – from treating the symptoms of homelessness to ending it. And Friendship Place is leading the way...by meeting people exactly where they are and getting them into stable housing as quickly as possible, with the right services, delivered in the right way and tailored to the particular circumstances of each individual or family.

Friendship Place’s rich blend of interconnected services has put us at the forefront of ending homelessness in the DC Metro Region, while our successes have attracted inquiries by advocates, public officials, and other services providers from all over the country. Whether it’s our innovative “employment first” approach to workforce development or our rapid solutions for homeless veterans and their families, our service models are advancing the entire field at the national level.

This year brings exciting new developments at Friendship Place, including street outreach to youth and expanded services for families. A program to help LGBT homeless youth is in the planning stages, as is a “Training Exchange” to facilitate the sharing of best practices among all the organizations in the DC area that are working to end homelessness.

Again, thank you! It’s our amazing family of faithful supporters – including you – that keeps Friendship Place at the cutting edge of homeless services. With your continued financial support, you can be sure that Friendship Place will be poised to create effective solutions to whatever new challenges may arise over the next 25 years – and beyond.

With gratitude,

Jean-Michel Giraud
President & CEO
“Since its beginning in 1991, Friendship Place has grown from a local, grassroots organization struggling to shelter homeless people in Upper Northwest DC, to a nationally recognized innovator and leader. It has ended homelessness for hundreds of people and by continuing to improve its strategies and expand its vision, its impact will only grow in the coming years.”

Nan Roman,
President & CEO,
National Alliance to End Homelessness
Permanent Supportive Housing

Friendship Place is a leading DC provider of PSH for highly vulnerable, chronically homeless individuals and families, with scattered-site apartments, a group home for women and an apartment building for men. Our largest housing program, Neighbors First, utilizes a low-barrier, “housing first” service model; case managers help participants transition directly from homelessness into housing and then provide long-term support to empower them to achieve personal goals for recovery, wellness, financial stability, employment and integration into the community.

479 people housed (222 single adults plus 74 families encompassing 257 total family members), with a retention rate of 99%.

Street Outreach

Friendship Place Welcome Center staff conduct outreach to men and women experiencing homelessness in Upper Northwest DC, with a special focus on the hardest-to-serve – those who have been on the streets for years and who have mental health and/or addiction issues.

86 individuals served, including 15 new to Friendship Place.

Drop-in

At Friendship Place’s Welcome Center, visitors can help themselves to a cup of coffee, a meal, and free necessities such as toiletries, undergarments, and rain ponchos. Visitors can also use the phone or a computer, take a shower or do laundry, receive mail, and meet with a case manager to take steps to rebuild their lives.

827 individuals served, a 37% increase over the previous year.

Rapid Rehousing

Rapid rehousing serves people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who need just short-term support to get back on their feet. In addition to providing temporary rental assistance, our two rapid rehousing programs – DC-funded Home Now and privately-funded Direct Housing – help people stabilize their income through benefits or employment, create sustainable budgets, find and move into housing they can afford, and connect with whatever services they will need for long-term stability.

Stable housing secured for 151 people (97 single adults plus 14 families encompassing 54 total family members).

Transitional Housing and Shelters

In partnership with area congregations, Friendship Place operates four small transitional shelters and two efficiency apartment units where residents may stay while they work with a case manager toward finding permanent housing.

53 individuals served.
Veterans Services
Our Veterans First program employs the rapid rehousing model to help homeless veterans and their families get back into housing quickly and to prevent homelessness for veteran households at risk of eviction. The program targets extremely low-income households and serves the District of Columbia and eight surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia.

642 people served (371 single adults plus 89 families encompassing 271 total family members); of those who exited the program during the year, 93% graduated to stable permanent housing. A small pilot project in Prince George’s County, Maryland, called Families First, served an additional 50 people in 11 veteran families.

Access to Housing
Friendship Place staff can help someone access housing services anywhere in the District, not just at Friendship Place, by completing a standardized questionnaire assessing their level of need and entering them into DC’s Coordinated Entry System, so that they can get connected to the housing program that’s most appropriate for them. Friendship Place played a leadership role in bringing coordinated entry to DC in 2014.

Staff have completed over 1,300 housing assessments, more than any other nonprofit provider in DC, behind only the VA.

Job Placement
Our AimHire program utilizes an innovative “employment first” approach to fast-track people experiencing or at risk of homelessness into jobs and housing simultaneously. By delivering individualized, wraparound services and building positive relationships with employers and landlords, AimHire creates opportunities for people with significant barriers to employment and housing.

AimHire placed 97 people into jobs and 83 into housing, with a 3-month retention rate of 90%. An additional 117 people got jobs through the employment services that are integrated into Friendship Place’s housing programs.

Community Engagement
Friendship Place actively solicits the support of volunteers. In 2015, more than 400 volunteers contributed more than 17,000 hours of service in every program and at every level of the organization. Our community engagement program also involves community members in advocacy for positive solutions to homelessness at the Federal and DC levels and coordinates our Speakers’ Bureau that offers educational presentations to community groups.

Free Clinic
Anyone who comes through the door of Friendship Place’s Welcome Center can get free access to a doctor, nurse, or psychiatrist. There are no insurance or even ID requirements, and same-day appointments are available.

464 medical consultations and 154 psychiatric consultations provided.

Youth Services
Through holistic, person-centered services, Before Thirty helps homeless and at-risk 17-to-29 year-olds find stable housing, sources of income, and a sense of direction for the future.

29 young people placed into jobs, 13 into permanent housing, and 7 into educational or training programs.

“A model nation-wide, Friendship Place is, first of all, a community-based association caring for our young, our veterans, our neighbors...What a powerful lesson in humanity they bring to our schools!”

Marie-Claude Genovese,
Lycée Rochambeau,
French International School
At 22 years old, Journey is a singer, songwriter, and survivor of human trafficking. With the help of organizations like Friendship Place, the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC), and FAIR Girls, she is now thriving and living in her own apartment in DC.

“It was an amazing feeling,” Journey says on moving into her own place. “Because I was part of human trafficking, I was going through a very big struggle. In the housing program I was in, I had to be in by 9 p.m. and out by 7 a.m. I was grateful, but it was really hard working two jobs and not being able to come home and take a nap or deal with certain things.”

That’s when FAIR Girls connected Journey with Friendship Place. “Friendship Place helped me with the first month’s rent in my new apartment. It was a major accomplishment and a step in the right path for me. It’s liberating. It’s also a lot of responsibility. I never realized how much toilet paper costs!”

Journey, who identifies as LGBT, is focused on her future. “I’m working two jobs and trying to maintain and not revert back to the past issues that I had. I’m also trying to get back to school for mental health and social work. I also love music. I want to start my own songwriting business on the side. Also want to start my own nonprofit working in the human trafficking sector.”

Journey is already a natural advocate for the issue. “The whole reason why I got into human trafficking was I didn’t have enough money to pay my phone bill and rent. Me being a teenager, I just needed money real fast. I thought it was going to be something easy, but I ended up getting real deep. It’s not a place where any young person should be.”

“But at the end of the day, there is nothing too big or too hard that you feel you can’t go through and come out a champion. I’ve been through the bottom of the bottom, the worst of the worst, and I’m still turning out to be a pretty decent human being. I’m not saying I’m perfect, I’m not saying I haven’t messed up, but there’s nothing you can’t become as long as you try. That’s all that matters.”
FINANCIALS

FY 2015
October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015

Total Revenues: $8,085,139
Private Gifts & Grants $2,048,367
District of Columbia $3,285,226
Federal - HUD $330,776
Federal - DOL $3,727
Federal - VA $2,325,867
Maryland – DHCD $91,176

Total Expenses: $7,937,734

In-Kind
Friendship Place received in-kind goods and services valued at more than $200,000, including food, basic necessities, clothing, Metro SmarTrip, phone cards, gift cards, computers, household items and furnishings; as well as pro bono legal services, video production, photography, proposal writing, life coaching, resume writing, career counseling, and workshop facilitation.

PRIVATE FUNDING

Individuals 50%
Foundations 24%
Congregations & Other Nonprofits 13%
Friendship Walks 6%
Businesses 4%
Fee for Services & Other 3%

EXPENSES

Permanent Supportive Housing 29%
Veterans Services 31%
Rapid Rehousing 14%
Job Placement 7%
Youth Services 6%
Fundraising 1%
Management 1%
Community Engagement 8%
Welcome Center Outreach 1%
FRIENDSHIP WALKS

On November 7, 2015, hundreds of dedicated supporters, including dozens of school and corporate teams, walked around the National Mall to help end homelessness in the DC region. The 2nd Annual Friendship Walks raised over $100,000 and highlighted national and regional efforts to end veteran homelessness.
To the Monk family, nothing mattered more during the year they were homeless than keeping their family together. It took single-minded real determination. Mr. Monk struggled to keep working while trying to find help for the family and tending to his wife, who was experiencing frightening pregnancy-related medical complications. The kids were fighting and their oldest son was getting into trouble. When they finally came “home” at the end of 2014 and started receiving help from Friendship Place, everything changed. The kids are getting along now and the 15-year-old is back on the honor roll. “He’s a different person,” says Mrs. Monk, who is slowly recovering her health. Mr. Monk, who had worked as a cable installer in the past, has completed fiber optics training and is working regularly again. Most important to both, they can devote themselves now to what they love best – being parents. “Other people say, ‘What, are you crazy? Eight kids?’” says Mr. Monk. “But I enjoy being a father. It takes a lot of patience and a lot of love, but it’s worth it having them look up to you and teaching them.”
When Beverly Stroud moved to Washington, DC, from San Diego, in December 2014, it was much harder to find a place to live than she'd expected. “I had a source of income, my Social Security, but I needed help with the security deposit and first month’s rent,” Ms. Stroud says. “It was a challenge that I knew I had to overcome.”

Ms. Stroud was staying with friends when a chance encounter connected her to Friendship Place. “I was going to various social service agencies seeking help. At one of them, I met a nice couple. They told me that Friendship Place had helped them with their security deposit and it was possible that I could qualify. So I made an appointment with Shannon Young; she did an intake on me.”

Today, Stroud lives in a room in a house in the Columbia Heights neighborhood with a family. “I’m doing well. I attend church services and other civic activities, go see plays, dine out. I’m thriving.”

On the services provided by Friendship Place, Stroud says, “It has helped me tremendously. I am grateful. I’m doing well and have everything I need. I have a secure place to live. And I would like people to know that Friendship Place is providing a needed service and it’s very important to provide it.”
DONORS FY 2015

Champions for Change
These generous members of our community have made 5-year pledges of $1,000 or more to the mission of Friendship Place.

Gift of Flourishing
$10,000 or more a year

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“Friendship Place has become a trusted and indispensable partner in the District’s efforts to end homelessness – a model service provider, with outstanding leadership, impeccable financial accountability, skilled and compassionate staff, and the ability to build successful partnerships with other service providers.”

A. Dallas Williams, FSA Deputy Administrator, Homeless Services, DC Department of Human Services
Friendship Walks

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“At AT&T, we’re in the business of connecting people to their world. Friendship Place does the same for homeless individuals and families in the Greater Washington, DC area – connecting people to programs and services to help them find homes, get jobs, and re-engage with their communities. We are proud to support their great work.”

Denis Dunn,
State President,
AT&T – Maryland, Washington, DC, and Delaware
“Over the last 25 years, Friendship Place has worked tirelessly to support our most vulnerable residents in achieving health and happiness in a home of their own. And by doing so, Friendship Place has helped to shape the solutions that we know work to end homelessness, in DC and nationwide. We are proud and grateful to have such an amazing partner in Friendship Place as we work together to make homelessness in DC rare, brief, and nonrecurring.”

Laura Zeilinger,
Director, DC Department of Human Services,
Former Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
“It has been amazing to have been part of the Friendship Place experience, which began following an eruption of community NIMBYism in response to city efforts to assist neighbors without shelter or housing, evolving into an organization which now provides housing and shelter for our neighbors across the city.”

Jim Nathanson,
Friendship Place Founder and Former DC Councilmember

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"Over the past 25 years, Friendship Place’s staff and volunteer network have provided invaluable resources and support to those in our community experiencing homelessness. And they have done so with extraordinary dedication and compassion. Founded during a time of heightened stigma against the homeless, Friendship Place’s services have empowered thousands of men and women to transition into permanent housing and independent living. We are extraordinarily indebted to Friendship Place and blessed to have them as a community partner."

DC Councilmember Mary Cheh (Ward 3)
"We are so grateful for our partnership with Friendship Place. Investing in their comprehensive, innovative, high-impact programs is great stewardship of our congregation’s resources. Even more importantly, we see lives changed through the ministry of Friendship Place. Our members’ lives are changed by investing in relationships with participants in their programs, and we have seen total transformation in the lives of its clients. It’s a joy to be part of this transforming work!"

Rev. Donna Marsh,
National Presbyterian Church
Every gift of any amount makes a difference. Unfortunately, we don't have room here to list all our 2,365 donors.

We strive to keep accurate records of gifts; if you discover an error, please accept our apologies and let us know by contacting Tanya Sweeney: 202.503.2968 or tsweeney@friendshipplace.org. Please note that any gifts made in the final three months of the 2015 calendar year will be recognized in our 2016 annual report.
MISSION:
To empower people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to attain stable housing and to rebuild their lives.

Founded in 1991, Friendship Place is a leader in the Washington, DC region in developing innovative solutions to homelessness.

In 2015, with the help of supporters like you, we helped over 2,600 people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.