



FRIEND-
SHIP
PLACE

Finding ways to say **yes.**
2014 Impact Report

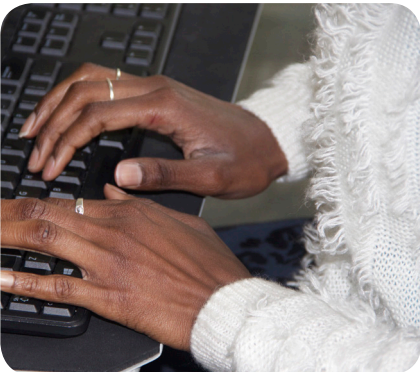
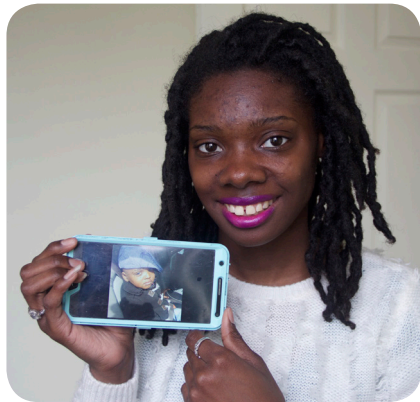
Tyesha Shank became homeless when her aunt put her out of the house on Christmas Day, 2011. She was 19. Her son Ma'Khari was born during her three years of living in shelters.

When Ms. Shank found Friendship Place, she was welcomed into **Before Thirty**, which was started in 2014 to help young people like Ms. Shank connect with their strengths and find their way forward. Staff helped her complete the paperwork to get housing, find the care she needed for serious health issues, and land a part-time job at a nonprofit that helped her when she was pregnant. Before Thirty is now exploring next steps with Ms. Shank. To give her a sense of what's possible, they took her on a college tour at Howard University. Her interests are many: fashion design, social work, nursing.

But Ms. Shank's top concern is Ma'Khari, who is now a spirited, curious, healthy three-year-old. I want my son to go to a diverse, artistic, sports, multilingual school," she says. And her dreams for herself? "I want to take phlebotomy, travel the world, re-enroll in school, make the dean's list, have good health, etc. And I say 'etc.' because I have a lot of other goals."

A way out [of homelessness]





Dear Friend,

At Friendship Place, we find ways to say "yes." To someone who's been searching desperately for help to break the cycle of homelessness, "yes" is a powerful word.

In 2014, we helped more than 2,000 people, twice as many as the year before. In this report, you'll learn how our commitment to "yes" has made a difference in their lives.

I'm especially excited to let you know that in filling the new positions that have opened up at Friendship Place with our rapid growth over the past year, we've hired nine people who have experienced homelessness themselves. It's been an upward spiral of empowerment; each hire inspires someone else to ask, "If he (or she) can do this, why can't I?" These new staff members bring extraordinary wisdom and compassion to their work, and a heartfelt commitment to helping others.

Ending homelessness is possible. Friendship Place is proving this to be true. We know what the solutions are. All that's needed is for all of us, collectively, to say "yes."

Thank you so much for your commitment to "yes."

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean-Michel Giraud".

Jean-Michel Giraud
Executive Director

Jean-Michel serves on the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness, for which he chairs the Shelter Conditions Work Group, and blogs about homelessness for the Huffington Post.

Programs

Your support for Friendship Place has a lasting impact. In 2014, Friendship Place's programs collectively ended or prevented homelessness for 1,038 people through creative, customized housing solutions, and empowered 233 people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to get jobs through innovative, state-of-the-art job placement services.

Women, men, families, veterans, ex-offenders, youth and seniors... their lives have been changed in countless ways – a child making honor roll for the first time, for example.

Outreach

Street outreach to 81 individuals, including 29 new to Friendship Place, providing everything from life-saving necessities, such as hand-warmers and bottled water, to on-the-street case management and peer support.

Drop-In and Free Clinic

Meals, coffee, basic needs, showers and laundry, phone and

internet, and case management. 637 visitors, an average of more than 40 visitors a day. 494 primary care consultations and 313 psychiatric consultations.

Congregation-Based Shelters and Transitional Apartments

46 adults and 3 children. All residents who participated in our AimHire employment program graduated to stable permanent housing.

Direct Housing

Privately funded rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention. Secured private-market housing for 81 households (135 individuals, including 44 children) with average monthly income of \$1,391. Prevented homelessness for 12 households (21 individuals, including 9 children) with average income of \$1,655.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Housing with ongoing services for highly vulnerable, formerly homeless men and women. 217 people housed, with a housing stability rate of 99%.

AimHire

Placed 117 men and women into jobs with 116 stably housed as well, with a three-month job retention rate of 86%. Five were placed in salaried positions (average of \$51,069); the rest in hourly positions (average of \$13.44 per hour). Also facilitated 17 increased-income placements. 28% of participants were heads of household (with spouse and/or children) and 36% were ex-offenders.

Veterans First

Rapid rehousing for 293 households (368 individuals); 88% of graduates exited successfully to permanent housing. Homelessness prevention for 115 households (261 people); 97% of graduates exited to stable housing. 89% of all households had incomes below 30% of the Area Median Income. In exit surveys, 95% of participants said they would recommend Veterans First to other veterans in need.



A Way Up

Turning to drugs to numb the pain of mental health challenges is what set Andrew Brady on the path to homelessness.

After completing six years of service in the U.S. Army in the 1980s, Mr. Brady wanted to put his abundant handyman skills to work and start his own business. But it didn't work out. Instead, he landed in a Pennsylvania state prison for two years for stealing \$64,000 from a drug dealer. When he got out, he let himself down on his vow to stay clean; out of despair, he attempted suicide three different times.

At a VA hospital, Mr. Brady finally got the treatment he needed for a host of medical and mental health issues. He is now recovering in Friendship Place's new La Casa housing program. "I came from the very bottom. You couldn't get lower than me. And now I'm on top of the world."

Mr. Brady has applied for the necessary licenses to get his handyman business going again. He has a longer-term dream, too: creating housing for homeless families. "I know I have a big heart," he says. "I feel such a great reward by helping people."



Growth

Because of our track record of creating effective programs that have a lasting impact, Friendship Place was awarded grants to start five new programs in 2014. Together, these programs will help more than 500 people this year.

Before Thirty

Before Thirty is a small privately funded pilot program that gives intensive, caring support to homeless and at-risk youth and young adults to help them find a sense of belonging, empowerment and purpose. In its first year, Before Thirty helped 102 individuals, including 25 with children, 33 with mental health issues, and 26 ex-offenders. The program placed 40 of them into jobs, 14 into housing, and 9 into educational or training placements.

Home Now

A DC-funded rapid rehousing program, Home Now gives intensive, short-term assistance to men and women who are experiencing homelessness to help them find housing and stabilize their finances so that they can pay rent on their own and move on with their lives. In its first 10 months, Home Now empowered 54 people to find a place to call "home."

Families First

The State of Maryland approached Friendship Place and asked us to create a small pilot project in Prince George's County to empower veteran families to leave homelessness and achieve long-term self-sufficiency. A Self-Sufficiency

Coordinator provides up to three years of wraparound support to participating families, helping them establish and achieve goals to increase their income through educational and employment opportunities, while Maryland provides rental assistance. Nine months into the program, Families First has worked with 15 adults and 25 children in nine families; two participants are pursuing bachelor's degrees and one a master's, while two others are in continuing education programs at the Community College. Two of the families have exited the program and are now paying rent on their own.



Neighbors First Families

With more than 20 years of experience helping chronically homeless men and women successfully achieve housing stability through long-term supportive services, in 2014 Friendship Place welcomed the opportunity to provide permanent supportive housing to homeless families, as well. With funding from the DC Government, our skilled case managers are now helping 40 families, including 89 children, rebuild their lives. Many of these families came to the program directly from the DC General Family Shelter. In 2015, Neighbors First Families will welcome an additional 50 families into the program.



La Casa

December 8 was move-in day for the first residents of La Casa, a beautiful new 40-unit apartment building in Columbia Heights built by the DC Government to provide permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless men. Friendship Place was selected by the District to operate the program. In the comfort and safety of their new homes and with the caring support of their case managers, the residents – many of whom have lived on the streets for years with serious illnesses or disabilities – are now connecting with health and recovery programs, and several have expressed a desire to re-enter the workforce.



A Way Through

Sometimes it's the small life challenges that can topple a family into homelessness. **John Brooks**, a former U.S. Army drill sergeant, was working a commission-based job that required use of his own vehicle when his truck broke down. He couldn't afford to fix it, so he was suddenly jobless. His Army pension alone didn't stretch far enough to pay the rent.

While sleeping at friends' houses, in hotels and shelters, Mr. Brooks and his wife Bri made a vow they faithfully kept: to deliver their two children to school every day no matter what.

Last July, the Brooks family became the first participants in Friendship Place's new **Families First** pilot program in Prince George's County. The flexible design of the program allows for quick action. "She said she would help me get a job and two days later I had a job," says Mr. Brooks, about the program's Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, Emily Bell. "She said she would get us housing and they quickly found us a place." Another Friendship Place program helped Mr. Brooks get his truck repaired.

Mr. Brooks is now working an overnight shift at FedEx and a temp job during the day and preparing to enroll in college. Meanwhile, John Jr. and Bri Jon both made the honor roll this year, and Bri Jon was recently named student of the month.



On a daily basis, the creative, mission-driven staff of Friendship Place are refining and improving our services in response to what our participants tell us and what we learn by sharing experiences with colleagues in the field. This is how we stay on the cutting edge of best practices. The results show not only in our outstanding outcomes but also in the recognition we receive. In the past year...

- The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, the agency responsible for distributing Federal and DC funds for homeless services in the District, presented its 25th Anniversary **Partnership Award** to Friendship Place for Extraordinary Service to Homeless Single Adults.
- For the second year in a row, the VA awarded **Mentor Status** to Friendship Place's Veterans First program.
- The Employment Specialist of Veterans First developed an innovative job placement

tool – getting jobs for several veterans at one time through mini-job fairs featuring a single employer. The VA named this a national **best practice** and is using a video about the approach in trainings for other agencies that help veterans

- The Director of our AimHire job placement program was selected to receive the 2015 **Leadership Award** from the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals.
- At Friendship Place, we go beyond ending homelessness for the individuals and families who turn to us for help. We work to end homelessness for everyone, in DC and beyond, by advocating best practices and systems change. In the past year...
- Friendship Place staff provided leadership to an initiative that brought “**Coordinated Entry**” to DC. Coordinated Entry allows someone experiencing homelessness to fill out a single questionnaire and then get connected to the housing program that best fits their

particular needs. In just its first year, Coordinated Entry has dramatically improved the efficiency of the entire system.

- Following meetings with staff of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs, our executive director was invited to submit a statement to the **House Committee** on Veterans Affairs regarding VA's progress toward its goal of ending veteran homelessness. Our statement made specific recommendations based on our experience serving veteran families.
 - Friendship Place staff were invited to present our best practices at **national conferences** of the Housing First Partners, the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals, the American Round Table to Abolish Homelessness and the National Alliance to End Homelessness. At NAEH's DC Conference, a Friendship Place program graduate was selected to introduce
- Executive Director Jean-Michel Giraud was named to chair a **Work Group** within the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness with the aim of improving conditions in DC's shelters so that any individual or family experiencing homelessness can have a safe, dignified place to stay while receiving the help they need to get back into housing quickly.
 - Our AimHire job placement program received visits from **DC Councilmembers** Mary Cheh and David Grosso, as well as the **Policy Director** for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, who were interested to see how we are successfully implementing the state-of-the-art Employment First model to fast-track people from homelessness and joblessness into employment and housing.

First Lady Michele Obama's keynote address.

[Leading The Way]



Saying Yes [together]

Friendship Place is nourished by a wellspring of volunteers and partners. In 2014, 472 volunteers, including 35 interns, contributed a record 20,912 hours of time and talent to our mission. Their help adds an extra personal touch that often makes a huge difference to someone who comes to us overwhelmed by a multitude of pressing challenges.

Just one example is our arrangement with the UDC School of Law, whose legal interns, supervised by a volunteer attorney, help participants in our Veterans First program find solutions to a wide range of legal issues. Their research helped one participant file for a protective order and another to recover life insurance money after his wife passed away, for instance.

Innovative partnerships also help Friendship Place maximize our impact. A new agreement signed with Holy Cross Health in Maryland will create 50 or more job opportunities for the homeless job seekers who come to us for help. With an organization-wide commitment to creating employment opportunities for at-risk populations, Holy Cross will place our participants in living wage jobs with career advancement possibilities and will provide training and mentoring to the new hires.

Of course, connecting with new partners, volunteers and supporters requires ongoing effort at Friendship Place. Our Speakers Bureau, which is now coordinated by a formerly homeless program graduate, was more active than ever in 2014. Board, staff, volunteers, and program participants gave a total of 255 presentations to engage new constituencies in the work of ending homelessness.

Financials

FY 2014

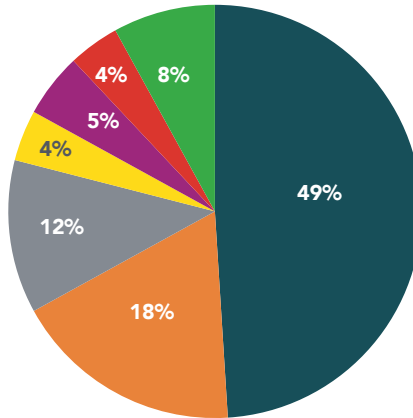
October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014

Total Revenues:	\$5,710,629
Private Gifts & Grants	\$2,003,371
District of Columbia	\$1,375,665
Federal – HUD	\$315,144
Federal – VA	\$2,000,000
Maryland – DHCD	\$16,449

Total Expenses: **\$5,672,086**

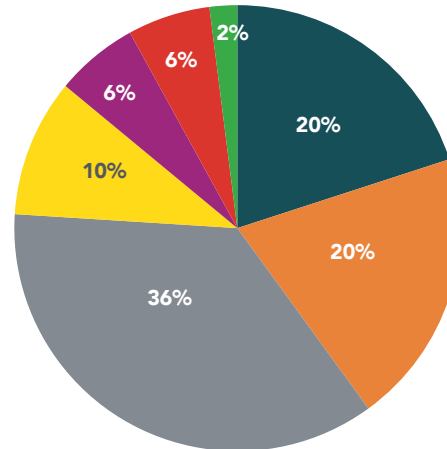
In-Kind:

Friendship Place also received in-kind goods and services valued at more than \$350,000: food, clothing, basic necessities, Metro SmarTrip, phone cards, gift cards, computers, household items and furnishings; as well as pro bono event catering, legal services, photography, video production, web design, proposal writing, career counseling, life coaching, resume writing, workshop facilitation, and design/construction for the Welcome Center renovation.



Private Funding

- Individuals
- Foundations
- Congregations & Other Nonprofits
- Help the Homeless
- Businesses
- Fee for Service & Other
- Welcome Center Renovation Campaign



Expenses

- Welcome Center: Outreach, Drop-In, Shelter, Clinic & Housing
- Housing First
- Veterans Services
- Job Placement
- Fundraising
- Management
- Community Education & Volunteer Engagement

Donors FY 2014

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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AMDG Foundation
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The Hanley Foundation
Christina Mangino

Gift of Healing \$1,000-4,999 a year

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Ann von Luttichau
Rose Wang
Kent Weaver

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Wendy Williams
Kenneth & Dorothy Woodcock

Friendship Walks

Community enthusiasm was in abundance at the first-ever Friendship Walks, held in November, 2014.

Corporate Partners

AT&T
Binary Group
Clark Construction Group
Federal Title & Escrow
FVC Bank
J. Hodges and Associates
Lockheed Martin
Rhythmaya Dance
TTR Sotheby's International Realty

Community Teams

Binary Group
Georgetown Day School
George Washington University Varsity Girls Softball
Hearst Elementary School
Horace Mann Elementary School
Kilpatrick Townsend
Powell Elementary School
Rochambeau French International School



Stoddert Elementary School

Legacy Society

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\$1,000-2,500

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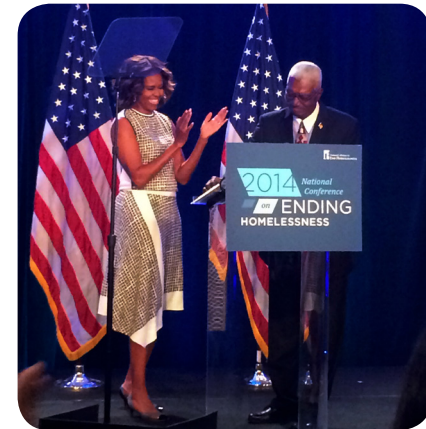
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If you search “**Orlando Hollis**” online, you’ll find his name on the U.S. team at the 1993 World Boxing Championships in Finland. That was during his stint as a medical specialist in the Army, where he competed on the U.S. Army boxing team.

Unfortunately, Mr. Hollis paid a price for his years in the ring – permanent short-term memory loss that made it impossible for him to get a decent job when he returned to civilian life. Years of struggle followed.

So it was that in the summer of 2014 Mr. Hollis found himself living in a DC homeless shelter, eating at soup kitchens and wandering the streets all day. He’d been living like that for almost five months when he learned about the **Veterans First** program at Friendship Place.

Veterans First helped Mr. Hollis find a place to live – an apartment he shares with two housemates – covered his first month’s rent, and expedited his VA paperwork so that he could begin receiving the benefits to which he was entitled. “My mind is at peace now,” says Mr. Hollis, who is saving up to visit his youngest child in Atlanta. “I got a place over my head, I got food, and I got peace.”



A Way Back



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