

ENDING HOMELESSNESS  
ONE HOUSE  
AT A TIME



HELP END  
HOMELESSNESS  
HOWARD COUNTY

# YES, THERE ARE HOMELESS FAMILIES IN HOWARD COUNTY



**IN SEPTEMBER 2015, THERE WERE OVER 400 HOUSEHOLDS, AND MORE THAN 600 CHILDREN, IN HOWARD COUNTY IN NEED OF HOMES.**

## MEET OUR TENANT: MONICA

Monica and her three children (a 13-year old boy and two girls, ages 9 and 7) had been living at the Grass-roots family shelter for six months until they moved into the Help End Homelessness condo in 2016.

“I told my kids that every single person in the world struggles with something,” Monica said. “Being homeless is our struggle. It isn’t going to define us and it isn’t going to destroy us. It is just something we’re going to work through.” Her kids clearly picked up her can-do approach to life. All three have maintained good grades through their time in the shelter—the 13-year-old has been on the honor roll all year.

With stable housing Monica has moved from part-time work to a solid full-time job and has recently begun management training for her company. We’re confident that in time, safe, affordable housing will help her to become self-sufficient. But, Monica has already started to give back. Beginning with her very first rent check, she became a contributor to the fund that will enable us to purchase our next home. When we told her that she was now becoming part of the solution to the affordable housing shortage in Howard County, she got tears in her eyes.

# OUR HISTORY

## IT ALL BEGAN WITH A DESIRE TO DO MORE...

Help End Homelessness Howard County began in 2012 with a small group of people from Columbia religious communities who had a fervent desire to do even more than they were already doing to respond to homeless people in our community. Help End Homelessness Howard County, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, was soon established to provide permanent— not transitional—affordable housing to end homelessness and invite local individuals, businesses, organizations, and faith communities to participate.

We follow the Housing First model, which prioritizes providing housing stability as the first step to addressing homelessness. We purchase local residential properties and provide permanent low-cost housing to homeless families and adults who are currently underserved by existing resources. Our residents will hold a lease at below-market prices.

When appropriate and desired, we also offer a community of support to help our residents face their other challenges. We work with multiple county agencies, nonprofits, individuals and religious communities to help end homelessness.

## OUR HOMES

In August 2015, Help End Homelessness Howard County purchased its first home—a light-filled, two-bedroom condominium in Columbia, MD, and welcomed our first tenant in mid-October. She was a 24-year-old newly single mother of two very young children who had been homeless for about six weeks. After several months, she moved back home to New York to live with her mother who was facing some health challenges.

“No amount of words can express how my life has changed because of all of you,” she wrote in a letter. “This opportunity has truly been a blessing for my children and we are forever grateful.”

In January 2017, HEHHC placed a father and mother and their 3 children in our 2nd house, a 2-story house with 3 bedrooms. Sixty-seven volunteers from 8 faith communities and organizations helped renovate, provide the furnishings and transform the house to a home filled with love.

## ONE HOUSE AT A TIME

### WILL YOU HELP US END HOMELESSNESS IN HOWARD COUNTY?

We need your commitment and donations to do this important work. We want you to be part of the response to end homelessness in Howard County. With your help, we can move together from managing homelessness in Howard County to beginning to solve it and end homelessness in Howard County altogether – one house at a time.

We invite our donors and residents to be more than sources of money and in-kind services; we encourage them to be part of decision-making and activities of the organization so that they feel ownership of the residence and, in turn, the success of its residents.



**TOGETHER, THERE IS SO MUCH WE CAN DO TO END HOMELESSNESS.**



## OUR MISSION

HEHHC, Inc., was formed for the purpose of providing below-market-rate housing for a family who are either homeless or face the prospect of homelessness with market-rate housing. This is being accomplished by purchasing suitable dwellings and leasing them, as permanent housing, at 30 percent of resident income.

We will repeat this as many times as we can, based on funding we are able to raise.

HEHHC provides encouragement and support to other organizations to use our model and replicate the process to serve more homeless families.



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