

N STREET VILLAGE MARKS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

The largest provider of housing and services for women experiencing homelessness in Washington, D.C. continues its legacy of reducing homelessness

WASHINGTON, D.C. – N Street Village, a nonprofit supporting women experiencing homelessness by offering a broad spectrum of services, housing, and advocacy, is marking five decades of service this year. Nationally recognized as an innovator in providing homelessness services, N Street Village operates 15 programs in 8 locations in its effort to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.

According to a recent report in [Security.org](https://www.security.org): “Because of its high population density, the District of Columbia has a much higher rate of homelessness than any other state.” While statistics measuring the number of D.C. residents experiencing homelessness on a single night has recently shown decreases, N Street Village still welcomes hundreds of women through its doors each year. The supportive services at the Village approach each woman as an individual. Of those receiving services:

- 29 percent have experienced chronic homelessness
- 41 percent have a mental illness, addiction, or both
- 36 percent have experienced domestic violence
- 48 percent are over the age of 50
- 77 percent identify as African American

N Street Village partners with women to achieve stability and make meaningful gains in their housing, income, employment, mental health, physical health and addiction recovery goals. N Street Village Chief Executive Officer Kenyatta T. Brunson said that while she is grateful for the impact N Street Village has on the community, she knows there is much more to do to serve the unique needs of women.

“It’s important to recognize that women experience homelessness differently from men,” said Brunson. “In my experience working in this field for almost two decades, I have identified five reasons that cause homelessness for women. I call them the 5Ds: Divorce, Disability, Death of a family member, Domestic Violence and extreme Debt. Each one of these factors carries its own trauma—and then when a woman becomes homeless this adds to the vicious cycle of trying to transition out of difficult life obstacles.”

One N Street Village client summed up how the Village has impacted her life. “N Street Village has given me the confidence to become independent,” said Wessena Russell, who lives in one of the organization’s permanent supportive housing programs.

Brunson said N Street Village has been able to provide collaborative assistance to countless women like Russell because of dedicated employees, along with a coalition that includes engaged individual supporters, private institutions and public entities. N Street Village was incorporated 50 years ago when the Reverend John Steinbruck and members of Luther Place Memorial Church decided to work with an interfaith group to address the homelessness crisis that was enveloping the church grounds and the 14th Street corridor.

“Over the years,” Brunson said, “the Village has evolved, adding important business partnerships and, in more recent years, crucial collaborations with the city and federal government.”

Peter Shields, N Street Village’s board chair, explains that, “one of the reasons the Village has been so successful in scaling its work to alleviate homelessness is because of the critically important partnerships we have established with leaders across our local and federal governments. Homelessness is not just a Democratic concern or a Republican concern. It is a human concern.”

N Street Village will mark five decades of service at its Annual Gala & Auction on Thursday, March 2, 2023. Guests from both the private and public sectors are expected to attend the event. Please contact us if you are interested in speaking with CEO Kenyatta Brunson, Board Chair Peter Shields or with clients who can discuss the resources they accessed at N Street Village.

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About N Street Village:

For 50 years, N Street Village has partnered with women to achieve their personal stability and make life-changing gains in their housing, income, employment, mental health, physical health, and addiction recovery. The Village supports women experiencing homelessness in Washington, D.C. by offering a broad spectrum of services, housing, and advocacy in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. The organization also provides affordable rental housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. For more about N Street Village, please visit: <https://www.nstreetvillage.org>.

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