



# 2009 Annual Report

Despite another tough year for families who are homeless and very low-income throughout Washington DC, we are proud to celebrate the extraordinary progress of Hope and a Home families in this 2009 Annual Report. In the last year, our Transitional Housing program saw seven families graduate and go on to stand successfully on their own two feet. One family even became the proud owner of their very first home. We saw our first Work and Thrive graduate go on to college with help from the Mike Young Education Fund, which awarded a total of 12 educational scholarships this year. Finally, our Higher Education for All program won some hard-fought battles to give special needs children in our program the educational opportunities that they deserve. More of our successes have been highlighted throughout this report. We are proud of the families and staff members that made all of these accomplishments possible.

As we face the difficult economic environment ahead, our agenda for 2010 is no less ambitious. Some of our goals include:

- ▶ Expanding our capacity to provide specialized services in the areas of mental health and debt and credit repair;
- ▶ Working to give all Hope and a Home parents and children the opportunity to go to college or a vocational program through the Mike Young Education Fund;
- ▶ Integrating 6 new families into our more rigorous Transitional Housing program;
- ▶ Implementing a phased in renovation of our residential units with new appliances, windows and fixtures that will make each unit more energy and cost efficient for our program residents; and,
- ▶ Providing year-round tutoring, mentoring, life skills training and summer employment to 15 young people through our expanded Work and Thrive program.

These are just a few of the milestones we look forward to achieving in 2010. Our work is not easy, but our track record has proven that with each family we serve, we are building a new foundation for lifelong success. We thank all the volunteers, foundations, corporations, faith-based organizations and individuals who have been a part of our success in 2009 and look forward to working with each of you to continue moving forward in 2010.

Best Regards,  
**Dorsey Dunn**  
Chair  
Board of Directors

**Daniel Hall**  
Executive Director

Hope and a Home's empowerment strategy for families is organized around 4 Keys for Change: Affordable Housing, Higher Education for All, Rewarding Work and Family and Community Connection. The following details our progress in each of these areas over the past year.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Our Transitional Housing program offers 18 below- market rental units to homeless and low-income families throughout the city for up to 3 years. Once in our program, families work intensively with our family support staff to identify challenges that must be addressed and develop a plan for meeting each need.

### 2009 Accomplishments:

- ▶ In 2009, the Transitional Housing program served 20 families including, 21 parents and 57 children;
- ▶ Due to their unwavering persistent and despite a difficult economy, 78% (14 out of 18) of all Hope and a Home parents were employed during 2009. The remaining 22% were enrolled in full-time GED or vocational training programs;
- ▶ 10 families obtained their credit reports and began working independently to strengthen their credit scores through our credit repair initiative with Capital Area Asset Builders (CAAB). Five families attended money management workshops, with 3 families participating in CAAB's comprehensive financial literacy training;
- ▶ 4 parents enrolled in college this past year pursuing degree programs in criminal justice and nursing;
- ▶ The Transitional Housing Team revised our internal assessment tools and program requirements to strengthen the organization's ability to identify and address family challenges within the first 90 days of the program.

### Spotlight on Success:

With a full 12 months remaining in her time with Hope and a Home, Simone began to look for affordable rental housing in early 2009. She did not want to be put in a position of scrambling for housing at the end of her time with the program. She put in applications in many locations and stood in line at 5:00 am in order to get a number high enough to be considered for applications. She made sacrifices and set priorities so that she could pay her rent on time every month. In late December, Simone received rental offers from

3 different locations. She was able to choose the apartment that best suited her needs, eventually selecting a location that made it possible for her daughter to continue to attend the school where she is flourishing. Simone has said many times that she is "so glad that she did it right" and made the sacrifices required for her to move on successfully from Hope and a Home. We are too. Congratulations Simone!

## HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL

Our Higher Education for All (HEFA) program keeps families (adults and children) engaged in the pursuit of a higher education and other enrichment opportunities. Our Higher Education for All team ensures that each child is thriving in their school environment and has what he or she needs for academic success.

### 2009 Accomplishments:

- ▶ HEFA provided essential educational assessment and advocacy services to 110 children. 57 of these children live with their families in our transitional housing; the other 53 are children from the surrounding community or families who have successfully moved from our program to permanent housing;
- ▶ The HEFA staff advocated for and placed 31 children in better schools;
- ▶ 43 mentors were matched with Hope and a Home children;
- ▶ 80% of the children participated in our Good Grades Incentive Program consistently earned a 2.5 GPA or better;
- ▶ 12 educational scholarships were awarded through The Mike Young Education Fund, which is administered by HEFA staff and Board members;
- ▶ Work and Thrive goes to college! This summer, we had our first opportunity to help a Work and Thrive teen attend college. With the help of the Mike Young Education Fund and dedicated Work and Thrive volunteers, he received a scholarship as well as items necessary for college. Hope and a Home will continue to support him throughout his college career; and,
- ▶ 10 current and former Hope and a Home parents or children were enrolled in college as a result of the educational counseling they received through HEFA.

### Spotlight on Success:

Ellis is a student with a significant learning disability. He was struggling in his 4th grade class at a DC Public School.

- ▶ As a result of the life skills training and mentoring they received through W&T, each teen has set new goals for their lives. Some of their goals include improving grades, being a better parent, going to church and going to college.

### Spotlight on Success:

For most of our teens, Work and Thrive is their first "real" employment experience. This summer, Nicole joined Work and Thrive to prepare her for her first job. As an expectant teen mother, she used her unborn child as motivation to succeed at work. Nicole was placed at a local library and greatly enjoyed her work. Nicole's mother was pleasantly surprised by her daughter's commitment to work, especially since Nicole had shown such little interest in school recently. "I was so proud to see her go to work every day without encouragement from me!" Nicole's mom shared. Nicole was linked with a W&T job coach who visited Nicole at work and was impressed by her enthusiasm. Nicole was chosen to participate in the pilot year of Work and Thrive 365.

## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Hope and a Home. Without them, we simply could not do the things we do. The Family and Community Connections Key for Change is all about nurturing the interconnection between our families and the community at-large. Nowhere is this exemplified more strongly than in the work and contributions of our volunteers. The following are just a few examples of how Hope and a Home's families have reached out to their community and how the larger community has reached back in to support Hope and a Home.

### Hope and a Home Families Join the Fight for Affordable Housing:

As a current Hope and a Home participant, Annette knows how important it is to keep affordable housing available for low-income families. That is why when asked to testify before Washington, DC's Department of Housing and Community Development on behalf of Manna, a local provider of affordable homeownership opportunities, to preserve the White Law apartments as permanent affordable housing, Annette was eager to help out.

With 2 days to prepare, Annette wrote a compelling testimony, emphasizing the importance of the White Law, not only to existing residents, but to low-income families throughout the city. As the only witness who was not a White Law resident or Manna employee, her testimony made a powerful impact. Annette has been a member of Manna's Advocacy Team for a year now. As a Team member and Hope and a Home parent representative, she has been committed to learning more about housing issues and opportunities in the City and training to be an advocate on the topics that impact the community of which she is now apart.

### Transforming our Housing through Community Service:

Hands on Housing's mission is to reach out to those in need through service. For over 8 years Hands on Housing and its groups of volunteers have helped to transform the residential units and common spaces of our housing. In 2009, Hands on Housing committed to help renovate two spaces in our buildings on 10th Street, NW. One space they are bringing back to life will be used as a common laundry facility for eight families. The other space will be used as an efficiency unit to provide one more housing opportunity for a homeless family. We are very grateful for this labor of love and look forward to this partnership for years to come. Hands on Housing is a part of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

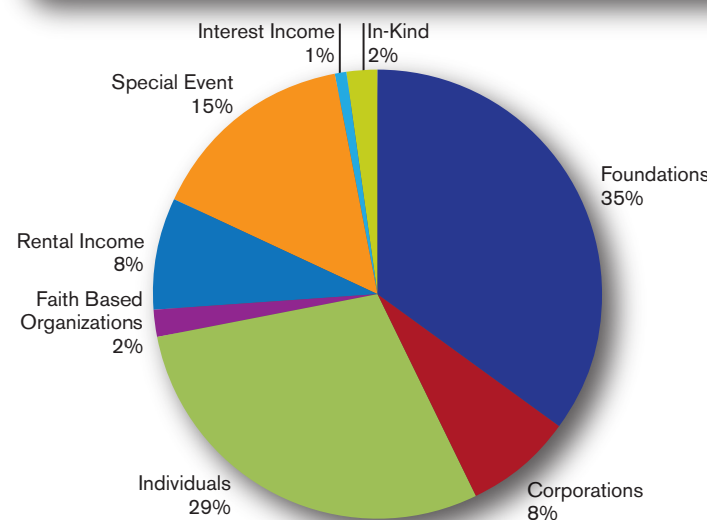
### An Oasis at Black Rock Retreat:

Black Rock is an amazing organization that allows eight Hope and a Home children to go to a week-long overnight camp every year at no cost. Black Rock's mission is to encourage spiritual growth and restoration within a refuge of God's creation. Linked by a common goal of personal renewal, Black Rock Retreat has enthusiastically supported Hope and a Home families for more than 10 years. Located in Quarryville, PA, our kids are able to go to a place that is far from city life, a place surrounded by trees, wildlife, cabins and nature. Every summer, Hope and a Home brings kids to this refuge to take in unique experiences and create memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. This summer, one 10 year old visited Black Rock for the first time and absolutely loved it. Black Rock gave this bright young girl an opportunity to get some much needed attention and space for one week. During her stay, she made new friends and experienced water tubing, hiking, rock jumping, archery, lake swimming, and bon fires for the first time. She loved every day and night at Black Rock and hopes to return next year.

\*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our families.

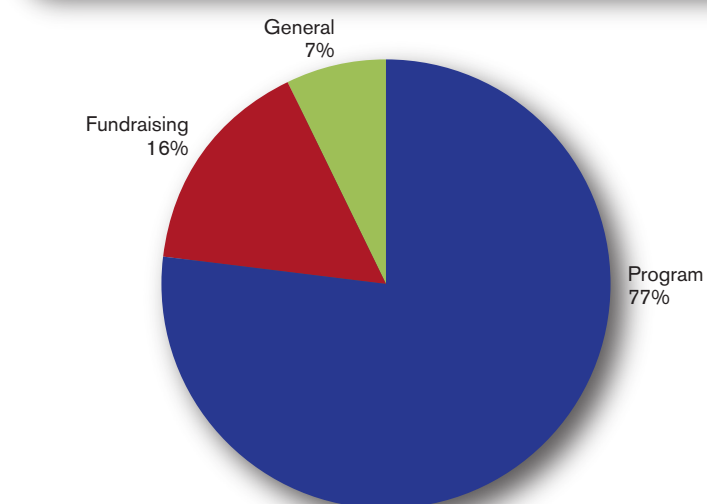
## 2009 FINANCES

### REVENUE



Foundations	\$253,000
Corporations	86,215
Individuals	82,213
Faith Based Organizations	18,737
Rental Income	56,520
Special Event	125,965
Interest Income	9,134
In-Kind	36,847
Other	9,177
	<u>\$677,808</u>

### EXPENSES



Program Expenses	\$618,447
Fundraising Expenses	129,829
Management and General	36,687
	<u>784,963</u>

**NET SURPLUS BEFORE DEP. (107,155)**

Depreciation Expense (non-cash) (61,113)

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (168,268)

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Hope and a Home raised \$63,927 from the 2nd Annual (not quit a ) Gala and we raised \$80,182 from the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walk.

His mother found out early in the school year that the special education teacher did not regularly provide services. As a result, he spent all his time in a standard education setting. Reading significantly below grade level, this was a painful struggle for Ellis. We advocated for services for him in his current school, though for a while, no staff resources were available for Ellis. Eventually, he received some assistance from the reading specialist, but she could not be consistent with him because she had her own case load. Through our advocacy efforts, we took Ellis' case to a hearing and were able to place him at the Lab School of Washington in the summer of 2009. What a difference this has made! Not only is he getting the academic help he needs and improving his academic performance tremendously, but also, it is quite a blessing to see that constant smile on his face. He is happy! We didn't see those smiles at his other school.

## REWARDING WORK

Work and Thrive prepares teens for employment and matches them with local businesses for rewarding summer experiences. Since the beginning of the program 5 years ago, Work and Thrive has provided intensive life and job skills training, tutoring, mentoring, college prep assistance and summer employment to over 35 young people.

### 2009 Accomplishments:

- ▶ Work and Thrive provided counseling and job referrals to 17 local teens in 2009;
- ▶ Work and Thrive expanded its summer work to a 12 month program that provides individualized mentoring, tutoring, and life skills training to a group of high potential/high risk youth during the school year;
- ▶ The expanded Work and Thrive program was piloted this school year with 5 young people chosen from the summer program. The launch has allowed us to use the personal relationships built over the summer to help teens overcome academic and personal obstacles to becoming successful, healthy young adults;
- ▶ 15 teens were trained and placed in summer employment with local businesses. Participating businesses in 2009 included, BodySmith Personal Fitness Gym and MLK Library;
- ▶ We provided two college tours to W&T students designed to demonstrate the differences between traditional, community, and vocational colleges;

## STAFF LIST

**Daniel Hall**, Executive Director

### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM:

**Mary Jo Schumacher**, Family Support Coordinator  
**LaVerne Brewster**, Family Support Coordinator  
**Darnell McWilliams**, Maintenance Specialist

### HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL:

**Grace Dickerson**, Education Coordinator  
**Jhonna Turner**, Youth Education Worker

### WORK AND THRIVE:

**Crystal Stewart**, Community Organizer

**Rosa Mooten**, Office Manager

**Cerece Murphy**, Director of Development

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