This holiday season, give the gift of choice to families in our housing programs by donating Target or Walmart gift cards to Adopt-a-Family.

With your gift, a family will celebrate the holidays together and choose their own presents and food. Empower our families with the gift of choice.

To make an Adopt-A-Family gift or to collect with your workplace, church or book club, contact development@cohdc.org or visit www.communityofhopedc.org/adoptafamily.

‘Tis the season for giving!

Plan to do some holiday shopping? Choose Community of Hope as your selected AmazonSmile charity and a portion of your sale will benefit Community of Hope!

Also, go to www.communityofhopedc.org/wishlist to find items to help our families settle into their new homes.

If you do not wish to receive this publication in the future, please email development@cohdc.org or call 202.407.7753
Thinking back to where she was four years ago, Erica Walker is happy to be where she is now. From living in a shelter and working odd jobs, to having financial stability and her own apartment, Erica credits all of her accomplishments to Community of Hope.

However, before Community of Hope, Erica’s life wasn’t the one she imagined for herself. Erica is one of thousands of families coming through DC’s shelter system. She and her three children (at the time) were in shelter for over a year. “I tried to spend as much time as I could outside of the shelter, only having to be there for curfew,” she said. “It wasn’t the best place, but I had to make it work for me. It made me want to work harder so that I could provide for my children.”

Erica’s routine consisted of getting her children ready for school and keeping busy during the day. Working odd jobs here and there or just hanging with her friends became the only schedule she knew. She wanted more for herself and for her children, but it was hard doing so by herself; she needed help.

In 2015, Erica was assigned a case manager through the Rapid Re-housing program at Community of Hope. This program helps families experiencing homelessness exit the shelter quickly and move into their own homes with the help of rental and utility assistance and supportive services. Within months, she could tell that she was receiving the help that she desperately needed. “It’s such a good program to be a part of!” she exclaimed. “I made sure to take advantage of all the resources, advice, and tips they had to offer.”

Erica’s story continues on page 3.

From the Desk of Kelly Sweeney McShane
I’ve been reflecting on the idea of being hope across our city. We face significant challenges.

The poverty rate for white children in DC is essentially zero, while 38% of Black children and 22% of Hispanic children live in poverty here. Residents of Wards 7 and 8 in particular are being left far behind on almost every measure – health, education, and income. Rising housing prices are making it difficult for people to live in other parts of the city, too.

But I know you are hope and, together, we are HOPE. This year I am encouraged by the role we played in helping to reduce the number of families experiencing homelessness in DC by 22% – the first time we’ve seen a reduction in many years. We provide every needed solution from prevention to long-term stable housing for nearly 1,000 families. For 10,000 others, we are hope in the form of medical, dental, and behavioral health services. I dream of an equitable DC that includes:

• All babies are healthy.
• All children have a safe place to sleep at night, and a chance to thrive in school.
• All parents get support to care for our children and have enough income to support the family.
• All DC residents – whether a life-long Washingtonian or a new immigrant – have access to health care when they need it, to ensure they live long, healthy lives.

I hope you’ll stick with us on this ambitious goal. You’ve done so much already through your generosity, time, and thoughts. When I think of what hope looks like from every quadrant of this city and even flowing in from Maryland and Virginia, I think of you. Thank you.
Community of Hope’s 2017 Tom Nees Award for Exceptional Service goes to a dedicated leader who has been involved with Community of Hope for 44 years. Bob was the Founding Board Chair who, in partnership with our founder, Tom Nees, had a vision for Community of Hope and brought it to life.

“Bob was one of the first people I met with when I became executive director 16 years ago,” says Kelly Sweeney McShane. “Bob has regularly offered me wisdom and guidance throughout my entire tenure, and I am deeply appreciative. This work is very personal for Bob, a man of deep faith and humility and it shows through in all that he does.”

As he accepted the award from Tom Nees and Kelly, Bob shared stories of the lives that impacted him, clients and fellow visionaries. “Thank you for thinking of me and for providing me with more recognition than I deserve. I accepted the award in the name of all of those who began the work and who continue the work.”

Bob has served for 44 years as an advisor to executive directors and a friend-raiser in all ways. He has served as a member of the capital campaign committee and as an event host committee member. He has shared his wisdom and friendship to ensure the long-term success of this organization. By our calculations, Bob has impacted the lives of thousands of families who are overcoming homelessness and tens of thousands of healthcare patients.

Bob has impacted the entire region through a lifetime of work in healthcare administration, including a 27-year tenure as president and CEO of Sibley Memorial Hospital, an entity of the Johns Hopkins Health System. Bob retired from Sibley in 2012 but continues his legacy of serving others as President and CEO of the Jane Bancroft Robinson Foundation. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and WETA National Public Television. Past board appointments include CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, the DC Hospital Association, and the Olivet Nazarene University Alumni Board of Trustees.

Back-to-School Success

Over 900 school children, including our housing families, were able to start the school year off with a smile after receiving new backpacks stuffed with school supplies at the 2017 Back to School Bash.

This year’s event, held in collaboration with the Metropolitan Police Department’s Beat the Streets summer series and the William O. Lockridge/Bellevue library, was the biggest and best yet! For the more than 1,500 residents who attended, this event has become an essential resource for a good start to the school year. Special thanks to Invisible Hand Foundation, Gallup, AmeriHealth Caritas DC, The Carlyle Group, and KTGY for generously supporting the event.

Stanton Commons Groundbreaking

Community of Hope, along with neighbors, community leaders, and government officials, celebrated the groundbreaking of The Commons at Stanton Square on May 9th. Scheduled for completion in 2018, The Commons represents a partnership between The Horning Brothers, The Horning Family Fund, Martha’s Table, and Community of Hope. Our vision is that at a time when too many families struggle with significant stresses and trauma, The Commons will enable us to provide a safe and welcoming environment to support emotional well-being and to help families thrive.

MyHealthGPS

This July we launched a new healthcare intervention, MyHealthGPS. This program improves the health of the sickest people in DC. So far, 180 COH patients have enrolled. Our goal is to reduce avoidable emergency room visits and hospital readmissions by advocating for patients, teaching patients to ask their providers the right questions, or having a nurse provide extra support and education after a visit. We are helping improve the overall quality of life for patients, reducing healthcare costs, and addressing gaps in the healthcare system.
Night of Hope

On October 12th, 440 of you, our donors, friends and partners came together for our Night of Hope celebration with a focus to BE HOPE ACROSS OUR CITY.

Guests enjoyed an evening of signature cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, a Give Hope Auction, and an inspirational program – with beautiful views of the US Capitol and National Mall as the backdrop. Jada Cummings stole the hearts of the audience with her story of how Community of Hope helped provide a stable life for herself and her daughter.

We are truly grateful for our Innovation sponsor, Bill Conway of the Bedford Falls Foundation; our Sustainer sponsors, Walker & Dunlop and Bank of America; our Partner sponsors, Horning Brothers, Fort Myer Construction Company, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, SB Capital Solutions, and Visionary Eye Doctors; as well as our emcee, Joshua Johnson, Host WAMU and NPR’s 1A; and to Ms. Cummings, who is an inspiration to all of us.

With your generous support, we raised over $400,000!

Now, with you, we are Hope Across Our City.

Thank you!

continued from front: A Chance to Start Over

“I always knew that I would need help because I couldn’t make it on my own as a single mom. If I didn’t have help, I would’ve gone back to the shelter and still be struggling.”

With the help of her case managers, she was able to set short and long-term goals. One important goal was getting a job and with the help of her Employment Specialist, Jackie Charneco, she secured a position as an armed special police officer. Jackie helped Erica with interviewing techniques and resources to find interview clothes and transportation. COH was also able to fund licensing and training fees she needed in order to work – something that she couldn’t have afforded on her own.

“My case manager and those helping me made me want to push myself to do more. They taught me not to procrastinate and to write out my goals, that way I can see them.”

It’s been a trickling effect for Erica; stable housing provided a stable income, which lead to a happier and stable family.

“... for Erica, stable housing provided a stable income, which lead to a happier and stable family.”