Save the Date:
October 11, 2018 6:30 - 9 pm
101 Constitution Ave, NW

Night of Hope
A LIGHT in our Community

https://www.communityofhopedc.org/loh

Choose Community of Hope as your selected AmazonSmile charity and a portion of your sale will benefit our organization!
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
“Sometimes a push is all you need,” and as Michelle Fisher describes, Community of Hope has been that push for her and her family.

“It hasn’t always been that way for Michelle. She was once in a very different place; a mother of two children, ages 6 and 9, with nowhere to turn and, even worse, no stable place to live. “I lost my job and then things really just went south,” said Michelle. She recalls it being a very dark time, and it didn’t seem to be temporary. It felt like this was going to be her fate; living in a huge shelter, worrying about the safety and sanity of her small family, and having little, if any, control over her environment. Just as complete frustration nearly moved her to pick up and leave, a case manager connected Michelle to Community of Hope.

Failed promises from individuals and other organizations left Michelle very apprehensive, but once she and her family were surrounded by a strong community of support that motivated her to have faith in herself again, she soon realized there was real merit to Community of Hope’s name and mission.

“Not only did I get a home where I could focus on taking care of my business in a quiet atmosphere, but I also had this group of people, helping me, rooting for me, making sure that I stayed on the right track.”

(Ms. Fisher’s story continues on page 2)
Case managers helped Michelle secure safe housing, organize her monthly bills, and connect her to resources and events that have become family traditions, like visits to the library and annual Easter egg activities. When her son needed more support and guidance, he was matched with a mentor. When it was clear that her daughter needed a new school setting, her case manager successfully helped to navigate the transfer process.

Last May, Michelle’s Community of Hope experience came full circle. She found her hope—in the form of a three bedroom house, on a quiet street with a backyard patio. She describes the feeling of knowing that her kids are in a safe environment as every mother’s dream.

This safe home gives Ms. Fisher the motivation she and her family need to live their best lives. And that’s just what they are doing!

A Bigger, Better Marie Reed Health Center Has Re-Opened

Our newly renovated Marie Reed Health Center re-opened for new and returning patients on April 9th. We will continue to provide a holistic range of services including medical, dental, and behavioral care as well as support groups, health education, connection to insurance and care coordination.

The new health center now features:

- 9 medical exam rooms
- 5 dental operatories
- 2 behavioral health consult rooms
- new spaces for group care
- more light and temperature control
When Irabel Elliott went to the emergency room last fall because of difficulty breathing, she learned about a far more serious issue. “They told me I needed a biopsy, and that I needed to talk to my primary doctor.” She soon began treatment for stage four breast cancer.

“But thank God for Community of Hope,” Irabel says. Before her diagnosis, she had dissatisfying experiences with hospitals in the District. At Community of Hope, she found a team that supported her health care journey. She recalls how the providers and medical staff made her feel cared for and understood.

Most importantly, they helped connect her to the specialists and treatment she needed. She is grateful to Community of Hope for “getting everything started” in her treatment.

Irabel is optimistic about the progress of her treatment and has even encouraged friends and family to seek the resources at Community of Hope. She notes how a family member recently attended a women’s event at Conway Health Center to take advantage of the mammogram screenings offered.

A central aspect of Irabel’s journey has been learning to pay attention to her body and its health needs. She describes her many years of working hard at her job and thinking that she didn’t have the time to prioritize her health. She now advocates for a proactive approach to wellness and awareness.

Irabel urges members of the community to be vigilant about their personal health because minor issues could indicate more serious health problems. Based on personal experience, she also believes that this is especially true if an individual’s family’s medical history puts them at risk for certain illnesses.

When asked what enduring lesson she wants others to take seriously, Irabel emphatically recommends: “Take care of yourself, don’t ignore yourself and your body.” Where should people seek help? She suggests Community of Hope, who is “out there [in the community] providing quality care.

Our Gratitude to Bank of America
We are incredibly grateful to Bank of America for choosing Community of Hope as a Neighborhood Builder Grant Recipient this year. The funds will be used to build capacity - a perfect year for this assistance as we open at Stanton Commons and expand our Marie Reed Health Center. The extra advantage is the leadership development provided to two COH leaders and ongoing service projects. Bank of America knows just what nonprofits need!

Healthy Hearts and Minds
We’ve always provided therapy for our adult patients but have added critical new treatments: child and adolescent therapy, play therapy, addictions counseling, and Medication Assisted Treatment. Our team will soon cover three sites!

More Well-Deserved Recognition for Kelly
CEO Kelly Sweeney McShane was recently honored at the 4th Annual Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Real Estate Awards by the University of Maryland. Thank you to UMD’s Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development for recognizing us along with our partners at Horning Brothers for outstanding work in providing long-term solutions to urban challenges within the Greater Washington region.

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