Plan to do any online shopping? Choose Community of Hope as your selected AmazonSmile charity and a portion of your sale will benefit our work!

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

You are about to read how people are supporting Community of Hope to end family homelessness and improve health outcomes in Washington, DC. Our work is made possible through many partnerships with government agencies, private companies, and with each of you who care about our mission and our city.

I am particularly excited about the significant, one-time grant from the Bezos Day One Fund, which will allow us to work at the intersection of urgent need and lasting impact for families experiencing homelessness. We were one of only 24 organizations nationwide to receive this support. In the last quarter, we opened The Triumph, the new short-term family housing program in Ward 8 that replaces the old DC General Shelter. This beautiful new facility provides a safe, dignified, temporary home for families while they get back on their feet. I encourage you, your friends or your company to consider volunteering.

2019 is also a year of strategic planning for Community of Hope. There has been a lot of change at Community of Hope since our last plan five years ago. The environment has changed since 2014, including a DC where affordable housing is getting harder and harder to find. As a staff and board, we have spent the last few months learning more about trends from national experts as well as gathering information on what we are doing best now and where we may want to focus initiatives over the next three years. Our goal, by December, is to have an updated strategic framework and clear priorities for the next two to three years. I look forward to sharing with you. Thank you for your continued support!

Kelly
### Hope Happenings

#### Transformational Giving to End Homelessness
Big thanks to the Bezos Day One Families Fund for choosing us as one of their first investments with a one-time $5 million grant. We will expend the funds over the next four years to support Community of Hope’s work to end family homelessness. Not only will these funds increase the number of people served, but they will allow us to strategically partner on innovative ways to meet the needs of families who are experiencing homelessness.

#### Taking Maternal and Infant Health to Congress
Thanks to **Representative Joe Kennedy III**, Congressman from Massachusetts, for joining us at our Family Health and Birth Center. Rep. Kennedy listened intently to the birth experiences of our moms, Heather and Mercedez, and their babies. We were honored to share more about our COH approach and strategies to supporting moms in achieving positive maternal experiences and the quality care they deserve. We applaud Rep. Kennedy’s commitment to supporting maternal health at the national level.

#### Random Acts Help Families Settle into Home
Thanks to our friends at **NBC4 Washington** for including Community of Hope in the Random Acts of Kindness Week. NBC4 donated boxes of household and baby goods. They inspired others to get involved in giving as well. With about 200 families moving out of our shelters and transitional housing each year, we need to keep our closets full of sheets, blankets, towels, and kitchen goods. Check out our wishlist on our website: www.communityofhopedc.org/wishlist

#### Creative, Engaged Corporate Generosity
Big shout out to two of our corporate partners for their creative giving. **Urban Land Institute DC** for engaging its members with a trivia night that raises funds for favorite organizations, including for our families. **David M Schwarz’ Gingertown event** brought together enthusiastic young leaders who created neighborhoods out of candy and crackers. Their creative fundraising brought thousands of dollars to our mission.
The Triumph – Will You Help Us Provide Safe, Dignified Housing for Families?

Community of Hope is ending family homelessness for more families at The Triumph – our new temporary housing site in Ward 8. This new 50-unit short-term family housing program is one of the replacement sites for DC General Shelter, which permanently closed in October 2018.

The Triumph is where families are provided:
- A safe and dignified place to help families achieve their own goals.
- Support from our compassionate case managers as families search for and move to more permanent housing.
- Access to services in their own community, including our largest and most robust healthcare center.

Since our opening, we have welcomed 55 families to the Washington Highlands site. Volunteers have the chance to provide hospitality and family fun during the dinner hour for children and families who are facing the incredible stress of being homeless. Elana Orbuch started volunteering this year at The Triumph when she found out there was a need. “I decided to volunteer because it was an opportunity to connect with DC residents and learn about the systems and organizations in DC that support and provide critical services to families experiencing homelessness. Giving my time by serving food and playing games with the kids was a concrete way that I could contribute to the DC community I live in.”

The help from our community neighbors and partners is crucial as we continue to provide safety and a path forward in the lives of children and their families. We are glad to see our city include this essential part of the homelessness continuum and, with your support, we will make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring.

Thank you to some of our group volunteers that have consistently served at the Triumph since the opening: Homesnap, the Suitland High School Honors Society, Edlavitch Jewish Community Center of Washington, DC, EAB, Reading Partners, and the Theta Chi Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega at George Washington University.

continued from front: A Reason To Celebrate

He regularly visits his doctors to manage his health issues, is intentional with monitoring his diet and carves out time in his day to work out. “I’m on the road to recovery.”

Marcellus admits that, since he hasn’t always made the right life choices, he now works hard to mentor young men - encouraging them to stay in school and out of trouble.

“I tell this generation behind us how important education is. Don’t hang with the wrong people. Don’t do what I’ve done and waste time. I wasted a lot of my years.”

Now with a positive outlook on life, Marcellus spends time cooking, and actively participates in a movie club he started with a group of friends. Things are falling in place for Marcellus and he is HOPEful that they only get better.

“Community of Hope took me off the streets. They gave me hope and a place to stay. It’s nothing like having your own.”

“I was stressed out, homeless, and things weren’t going my way...”