

You're Looking at a Walking, Living, Breathing, Talking Miracle

Geraldine Morrison lost her savings and became homeless after 9/11, but she persevered.

She lost her left arm and almost lost her life in a car accident a few years later, but still she endured.

Ms. Morrison sought refuge at Bailey's Shelter last December and quickly found housing, but her troubles weren't over. Her landlord began to make her life "a living hell."

Turn to page 6 to see how she has turned everything around with your support and considers her life a miracle.



Geraldine & John, NHH Housing Case Manager

Congrats to our Volunteer of the Year!



Christine Sennott is our 2020 Volunteer of the Year! We're grateful for her service and for leading amazing volunteer efforts on behalf of Keller Williams MetroCenter for the past 3 years. Christine has organized annual projects for the KW MetroCenter Day of Service including renovating supportive housing apartments, hosting employment workshops, cleaning shelters, and organizing fundraisers. They also "adopted" two apartments at the Bailey's Shelter & Supportive Housing (BSSH) facility last October, making each apartment move-in ready. Christine then got friends and businesses to adopt 4 more! For all this and more, we're so thankful for Christine!

Read more about wonderful volunteers on Pages 4 & 5!

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HOTELS SAVE LIVES AT Q-PID

How do you stay safe-at-home when you don't have a home?

How do you socially-distance in a full homeless shelter?

These were two important questions that had to be answered when the coronavirus outbreak began. We're grateful that this wasn't a problem we had to solve by ourselves. Leaders throughout Northern Virginia took action. Using CARES Act funding and shared resources, counties and cities began master-leasing vacant hotels in April to be used as additional shelter sites to help keep homeless people safe during the pandemic.

Together, local nonprofits hired staff to work around-the-clock at these new alternate shelters. Older homeless guests and people with certain medical conditions were given priority to allow them to safely isolate themselves. We then further reduced the number of people in shelter by moving people with other health conditions to the hotels.

Non-homeless neighbors are also being referred by neighborhood health groups to these hotels so they can safely quarantine without putting family members at risk.

New Hope Housing began operating an alternate shelter site on Route One in June. This program is called "Q-PID" – Quarantine, Prevention, Isolation, and Decompression. More than 85 people have already stayed at this shelter!

We're grateful to all of YOU who have been preparing thousands of additional meals, and donating games, snacks, and other gifts to meet people's needs so that they can stay safe in the shelter. Together, we will get through this!

GRATEFUL FOR A SAFE PLACE

Ms. W. is one of your neighbors you've helped at Q-PID. She is 60 years old and has been homeless for several years. This summer, she moved into the Q-PID shelter and is grateful to have a safe place during the coronavirus crisis.

Ms. W. is on track to get a key to an apartment this month! She's excited for a new place to live and to be part of a caring community.



COVID-19 IMPACT

The past several months have been challenging, but your support has been incredible. Thanks to you and a supportive community, we were able to shift programs and activities to continue to serve our homeless neighbors.

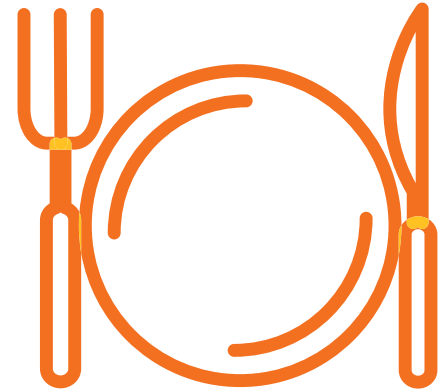
Your Impact: April 1 through August 31, 2020



**226 new
volunteers signed
up to serve**



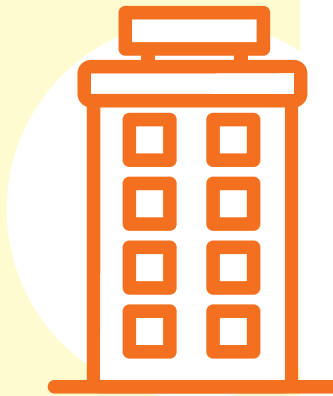
**Volunteers served
more than 1,600 hours**



**Volunteers made
15,147 meals**



**623 people have
safely sheltered in
one of our regular
shelter programs.**



**84 people have
safely sheltered in
our alternate Q-PID
shelter since June**



**129 people have
safely moved to
housing!**

Thank you all!

YOU'RE AWESOME. THERE, WE SAID IT.

You're also compassionate, dedicated, and adaptable. We said these words again and again to describe the 9 individuals, families, and groups that we celebrated on Saturday, August 29th, at our 1st Virtual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. We wish we could have been with you in person! During the pandemic, we have suspended onsite volunteer activities but have been fortunate to have had hundreds of groups and individuals volunteer virtually through online projects and meal preparation at home. We're grateful to all of you incredible people!



Bluto, Fastwalker, Will, and Dustin

Margaux Van Allen received this year's Allie McConnell Youth Service award. Margaux began volunteering weekly in 2017 with our children's program, helping kids with homework, reading, and crafts. The children loved Margaux, who was close to their age and "much cooler than the adults." She has also donated Thanksgiving baskets, and adopted one of the new apartments at BSSH last fall. She raised over \$1,000 at school and decorated the apartment, too! Margaux truly embodies Allie McConnell's spirit of service! Thank you, Margaux!

Three cheers for The Neighborhood Barbershop: our Community Champion! For 3 years, TNB barbers have been providing free haircuts to homeless adults at the Bailey's Shelter. Clients rave about their great haircuts and that each barber treats them with respect. The barbers also help outreach workers meet homeless people in the Falls Church area to connect them with services. In 2018 and 2019, TNB hosted 25 hour Cut-A-Thons to support the shelter, raising over \$25,000. We're grateful for them and that they have safely re-opened!



Margaux & Sami - Thanksgiving 2018

Visit www.newhopehousing.org & click VOLUNTEER to sign up!

MORE AWESOME PEOPLE

Ollie and Ellie have been leading their families' volunteer efforts during the pandemic. They have helped prepare meals for shelter and outreach sites over 30 times since they began volunteering in May – a total of 1,000 meals! They also lovingly decorate and write supportive notes to shelter guests. Ollie and Ellie have signed up for service this fall and look forward to being old enough to volunteer onsite at the shelters once we reopen for volunteers.



Clarendon Presbyterian Church was recognized for their service at the Residential Program Center Shelter (RPC) in Arlington. They have prepared and delivered meals for guests at RPC and have hosted several donation drives at their church which resulted in over \$2,000 worth of supplies. Several members of the church have been trained for virtual service projects and will continue to serve this fall!

"We miss seeing the faces of our volunteers, but we see the effects of their efforts daily. I'm grateful to know that there are neighbors like you to make sure everyone has a safe and happy home in which to thrive." - Pam Michell, Executive Director

Fern & James Winbush were presented with our Jim Lund Lifetime of Service Award. They have volunteered dozens of ways over their many years of service. Fern served on the board of directors, they were table captains at events, and have prepared dinners for the guests at Mondloch House Shelter once-a-month for 10 years! They have continued giving during the pandemic, donating over \$1,000 of needed items from our Amazon wish list. Thank you both!

The Falls Church Episcopal has been making delicious dinners for Bailey's Shelter once-a-month since 2017, putting care into creating a great menu. At the beginning of the pandemic, the church group switched to ordering meals from Spin Pollo in Falls Church. Since April, Spin Pollo meals have been a highlight at the shelter. The Falls Church Episcopal members are also making bagged meals for outreach programs and hosting food drives for other local nonprofits.

Visit <http://bit.ly/nhhawesomevolunteers> to read more!

MIRACLE MS. MORRISON (CONT. FROM COVER)

Geraldine has had many twists and turns in life, but somehow finds ways to smile.

Last year, Ms. Morrison moved from New York hoping to start a better life for herself because "my golden years were starting to look tarnished. Everybody was struggling. Family, friends, nobody could help because everyone is struggling themselves. I thought there had to be more to it, I've worked all my life...when does it get good?"

She had fallen in love with the Northern Virginia community while watching online services at Alfred Street Baptist Church for the past 5 years. She lined up an apartment and travelled here, but missed calls with the landlord and a delayed check caused her to lose the apartment. She stayed in a hotel for 10 days while apartment-hunting but began to run out of money. Geraldine turned to Bailey's Shelter for help.

A few weeks later, she was renting a room in a house and felt stability. That living situation turned bad quickly, however, when her landlord told her that she planned to sell the house by May. The landlord became verbally abusive and tried to force her out.

Geraldine toughed it out for months but then turned to Bailey's Shelter for help again. One day, Raynel, the Bailey's Shelter Director, and John, her housing case manager, showed up at the house and told her "We're gonna get you out of here."

On July 2nd, Geraldine moved into a lovely apartment with their help. She says, "It's so nice and quiet and peaceful. And I thrive on quiet and peace."

"Homelessness is a situation that cannot define or confine a person."

When asked about how her disability affected getting out of homelessness, she said she doesn't like to talk about her accident because "it's impossible to keep moving forward if you're looking backwards." 16 years ago, she awoke from a three-day coma to her daughter's voice saying, "She doesn't have an arm."

Her experience since has taught her that some people aren't ready for people with disabilities - or miracles. "You're looking at a walking, living, breathing, talking miracle." With a smile on her face, she tells us that she can do just about everything she used to do, just a little slower.

Of her past she says, "We can recognize and know that homelessness is a situation that cannot define or confine a person." Of her present, Geraldine says she wants to sing, to write, and to work on life getting good.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Serving as a nonprofit board member is a meaningful way to volunteer and move our mission forward. Please join us in welcoming our three new board members!

Virginia "Gin" Kinneman, Hubert "Ronnie" Bagley, and Sean Clark.

Read all about them and how to become a board member on our website!



PREVENTING OUTBREAKS IN SHELTER

With a contagious virus everywhere, people are going to get sick. Knowing what to do to prevent an outbreak is important.

Jason Munoz, Director of the Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter, helped prevent an outbreak when a staff person tested positive for coronavirus last month. The staff person felt ill, so they went home and arranged a coronavirus test. As soon as they got the results, they called Jason right away. Jason alerted the executive director and immediately called the Fairfax County Health Department.

The Health Department began contact tracing to see who may be at risk. Several staff were instructed to quarantine at home. Shelter staff and guests were informed that there had been a positive test result. Everyone was told to monitor their symptoms and get tested if they felt they had any of the common symptoms of COVID-19.

The situation was monitored closely during the quarantine period. No one else got sick, and our staff person has thankfully recovered. Less than three weeks later and everyone was back at work. Jason praised the Health Department, staff, and shelter guests for working together to make sure everyone was safe.

Since the pandemic began, we have had several people test positive across programs. But because of quick action, community support, and hygienic measures such as mask-wearing and physical-distancing - and a healthy dose of luck - we have had no outbreaks! Thanks again to everyone who has donated masks and other supplies!

MAKE A LIFE-CHANGING GIFT TODAY

This year has been tough, and we need your help this year and next year.

Join our Giving Hope Circle to sustain life-changing efforts by starting a monthly gift today.

Your monthly gift will ensure New Hope Housing has the resources to meet the challenges of this crisis today and tomorrow.

Great news: You can double your impact today! Several donors have pledged \$20,000 in matching gifts for New Hope Housing's participation in Giving Tuesday this year! Your first year of monthly gifts can be matched too! To get your gift matched, make a donation online at www.newhopehousing.org or return the enclosed card with your gift pledge.

For more info or to help spread the word, please contact Jan Sacharko at 703-799-2293 extension 27, or jsacharko@newhopehousing.org

WORKING TOWARD HIS FUTURE

Sam takes four buses on his three-hour commute to his internship. He works a four-hour shift for \$10/hour supervising four other interns. Then it's another three-hour commute back to the shelter.

Sam is grateful for this trial internship because it might turn into a full-time job with benefits and retirement. At age 54, he's done with being homeless.

He wants this job and this future. We're rooting for him.

More to come...



Sam and Paul, Workforce Development Manager



It's time to rethink homelessness.

Learn More and Get Involved

New Hope Housing

8407-E Richmond Highway

Alexandria, Virginia 22309

703-799-2293

www.newhopehousing.org