

## A Little Help From Your Friends

Have you ever thought about how hard it is to get a job when you're homeless? Or how hard it is to get a home when you're jobless? Neither is easy to do. Sometimes you just need help.

Please flip inside to pages 4-5 to read about Victor and Kevin and how they both overcame homelessness and got jobs at the age of 61 - with a little help from the Workforce Team.



**Victor Moving Into His Home  
October 2021**

## Congrats to our Volunteers of the Year!

We're happy to announce Debi & Eric Schilling as our 2021 Volunteers of the Year! Debi and Eric began volunteering in April 2020, making lunches for shelter guests at the start of the pandemic. They have now made more than 1,000 meals for our shelters! Debi has also been a "Coffee & Conversations" volunteer, and they've recruited friends and family to donate Welcome Home Baskets! We're grateful they found us and always serve with smiles!



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## Good-bye Pam...

It's hard to believe that my time as executive director has come to an end. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to growing Route One Corridor Housing into New Hope Housing – a place that thousands of our neighbors have found hope and hospitality – including me.

When I arrived here nearly 31 years ago, the agency had a mission to get people into shelter. Over these years, our mission has changed. The community has changed. I have been changed.

I'm grateful to have been part of a community transformation that knows how truly important getting a 2nd chance is, and how foundational housing is to everyone. I challenge everyone here, all of our staff and supporters, to keep this spirit of offering hope, hospitality, and second chances.

It's often said that "leaders get the accolades; staff gets things done," and that's true here at New Hope Housing. I have been privileged to work with literally thousands of amazing people who accomplish the impossible every day. I am grateful for all of you.

I want everyone to welcome Bill Gorman as he begins his term as Interim Executive Director, and extend to him our hospitality as well. I believe he has the passion and skills necessary to lead New Hope Housing on its next journey.



Thank you for being here with me on my journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Michell".

Pam Michell

## Pam's Garden

Pam welcomes everyone to join her for an annual garden party to honor our friends and supporters who have named New Hope Housing in their wills. At her retirement event, Pam and several friends announced that they have made this living gift to New Hope's future and to grow new opportunities. To learn more about Pam's Garden, contact Jan Sacharko at [jsacharko@newhopehousing.org](mailto:jsacharko@newhopehousing.org) or 703-799-2293.



## Welcome Bill!

New Hope Housing's board of directors welcomes William W. Gorman as the newly appointed interim executive director effective October 1st.

Bill has a strong record of organizational leadership and experience working as the chief of operations for the Archdiocese of Washington and Franciscan University. In these roles, he oversaw strategic planning, operations, institutional effectiveness and growth, finance, public affairs, human resources, marketing and communications, Information Technology, and real estate.

**"The board is confident in Mr. Gorman's ability to guide the NHH team through this transition period and lead the organization's programs, initiatives and services." - Denise Mackie-Smith, President of the Board of Directors.**

Bill grew up in Prince George's County Maryland and graduated from Largo High School. He received his MBA, Marketing, from the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. He is married, and has six children.

He will remain in the interim position until the board of directors completes its search for a permanent executive director.

"The mission and sustainability of New Hope Housing is more important than ever. I am pleased to step into this role and look forward to partnering with the employees, volunteers, and donors to continue moving New Hope Housing forward.

In the past, through my various roles and volunteer experiences, I have had the opportunity to work with those who are experiencing homelessness. So, when an opportunity with New Hope Housing became known to me, I moved quickly to express my interest.

On my first day, I had the opportunity to interact with a New Hope Housing resident. He proudly showed me his room and stated on three occasions, 'Everything in here is mine.' That simple statement conveyed not only the pride of his accomplishments but also the dignity that NHH provides by believing and investing in others.

The staff, volunteers, and supporters of New Hope Housing are a family. Whether as a volunteer that provides a listening ear or a warm meal; or a generous benefactor that helps sustain our mission – it is clear that New Hope Housing goes beyond simply providing shelter; it is a glue that helps hold our community together.

It is an honor to undertake this role and again I thank you for all of your efforts to help those who are experiencing homelessness in our community."



**William W. Gorman,  
Interim Executive Director**

## A'int Nothing Gonna Stop Me Now!

Victor is the kind of handyman who can fix anything and teach others to do it, too. "If I see you do it once, I can do it, too." Those skills have helped him get jobs since he was 14. He does all of us this despite a major challenge: he can barely read.



**Priyanka & Victor**

Victor had dropped out of school in the 7th grade. A family member taught him the basics of plumbing, electrical work, and drywall when he was 14. He spent 10 years at his first handyman job learning more. He's gotten so confident in his skills, he'll say to potential employers "hire me for a week without pay if you don't think I have what it takes. I prove myself every time."

Fixing things has always brought him happiness and pride. Working and keeping busy has also helped him not think about the troubles he's had that stem from being abused at home as a child. Later, it became too much.

After many years of addiction and instability, he ended up homeless in the woods for a few months. In May 2021, he entered the RPC shelter.

Priyanka, the Employment Case Manager at RPC, met Victor soon after he got to shelter in 2021. She had recently graduated from Marymount and was excited to start helping people. She knew, though, that some people might need to take time to build trust.

Victor watched Pri help others for a few weeks, and then finally asked her, too. Could she help him find a long-term job doing maintenance?

Pri got the team together. She found a wonderful volunteer named Meena from Ivy Research Council who helped Victor overhaul his resume over Zoom one day. With that ready, he said "Ain't nothing gonna stop me now!" Pri and Victor posted it to Indeed and soon jobs were popping up daily.

"It was so great working with him because he's so determined," said Pri. His motivation landed him a perfect full-time job in September, making \$20/hr plus great benefits. He moved into his apartment in October and has been making it into a nice place for his grandkids to visit.



**The Workforce Team:**

**Paul, Kelsey, Priyanka, & Hemede**

## Anyone Can Do Anything

Kevin showed up at Bailey's Shelter in 2020 because that's where his probation officer told him to go. He was 60 years old and thought that going to a shelter was "rock bottom." Even when he had suffered from addiction and spent time in jail as a younger man, there was always someone to help him. But not now.

Or so he thought. When he got to shelter, he decided it was time "to get out of his own way" and accept help if it was there. And it was!

"It takes me a lot to open up, but sometimes you can feel a connection when someone is sincere and they're passionate." Kevin says that Hemedede, Angel, Roynasha, and Rashad to name a few were all there for him.

But he had to take some things slow. He had been in a horrible car accident in 2019. His jaw had been broken. He has a plate in his chest and pins in his elbow. Standing for any length of time is painful now. Getting work was slow.

He thinks a combination of depression and medication after the accident led him to commit petty theft that landed him in jail early in 2020. He lost his condo while locked up and was told about Bailey's.

Hemedede was the first in her family to graduate from college, though the ceremony had to be cancelled due to COVID. Still, she was optimistic about finding a job to allow her to pursue her true passion in life: helping people in need. She became the Employment Case Manager for Bailey's Shelter in April 2021, taking over from Kelsey, who became the case manager for the Kennedy Shelter (and was recently named our Employee of the Quarter!)

**"Hemedede has been my rock, the shoulder I have been crying on."**

Kevin got a lead for the job he has now on his own, but gives Hemedede credit for helping him open up and recognize his own value. In July he began working at a substance abuse recovery center helping people through their addictions. "They see me doing better and I can tell them 'You can do this man!'"

He's not a full counselor but is getting a lot of encouragement to go back to school because he's so good with their clients. He's thinking about it so he can continue to give back.

**"You all are in the business of saving lives...I want to be that person to help make a difference in somebody's life."**

"Kevin has taught me a lot. People can overcome so much - that anyone can do anything with just a little help," says Hemedede.

Visit [www.newhopehousing.org](http://www.newhopehousing.org) to volunteer with the Workforce Team and help change lives, too!



**Hemedede & Kevin**

## Nacho Average Volunteers!

Nine caring individuals and groups were honored for their service on July 24th at our Volunteer Celebration. Due to COVID restrictions, volunteers were not onsite between March 13, 2020, and July 1, 2021. Despite this, over 400 volunteers served over 5,000 hours and provided 55,000 meals for shelter guests, as well as serving online as game night hosts and mentors. We're thankful for all of YOU!

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**Sami Smyth & Sheila Keshavarz**

Sheila Keshavarz received this year's Allie McConnell Youth Service Award! Sheila organized a gift card donation drive during the holidays to help guests in shelter. She saw an ad online and jumped into action, raising \$3,000 on GoFundMe, a huge feat for anyone much less an 8th grader! Sheila has also recruited friends to join "Sheila's Lunch Bunch" to make meals for the RPC Shelter. Thank you, Sheila!

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Valencia Utlej has been an Outstanding Volunteer at several sites for the past four years. She began her service with her church, Unity Christian Fellowship International, and has helped host cook outs and special holiday meals. She has also cooked dinners for Mondloch House every month. During the pandemic, Valencia reached out and asked what more she

could do to help. She then signed up to provide bagged lunches for our COVID-19 shelter site to support individuals that were quarantined. Valencia has also hosted several nights of the most fun and most requested activity at RPC shelter: BINGO! Thank you, Valencia!

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Savatri Ramsamooj of Alexandria was named an Outstanding Volunteer for her service with Mother of Light Center. Savatri has been preparing and delivering incredible homecooked meals for everyone at Bailey's Shelter. They also bring like-new clothing that they have collected to create a free "pop-up clothing closet" each time they visit. Guests are allowed to choose any of the items they wish and are very grateful for these extra gifts!



**Bianca Clark & Savatri Ramsamooj**

## Volunteers Are The Best



**Jan Sacharko & Joen Schulz**

Congrats to our Community Champion: The Nest Collective! Founded in 2018 by Joen Schulz, TNC provides the comforts of home for vulnerable neighbors by collecting and distributing donations of gently used furniture to individuals and families who cannot afford them. Since they opened, they have helped countless New Hope Housing guests furnish new apartments after leaving shelter. Because of them, our new neighbors have been able to make lovely homes.

Kelsey Pehrsson is an Outstanding Volunteer at RPC Shelter. Kelsey and Redemption Hill Church began serving meals in April 2020. She is a "Coffee and Conversations" volunteer, providing a listening ear and support to shelter guests. She and her church also began a new project called "Welcome Back" at which volunteers greet shelter guests with snacks and drinks to welcome them back from their work day. Guests love to talk with friendly (masked) faces!

Solid Rock 7th Day Adventist was named an Outstanding Volunteer Group for their service at RPC. Solid Rock has been preparing wonderful hot breakfasts monthly at RPC for more than 5 years. Their meals is a huge buffet, and is always loved by guests. Solid Rock members have also made care packages for shelter staff to show their appreciation for their hard work during the pandemic as well. Special thanks to their project coordinator, Ms. Romana Lavalas.



**Patrick Long, Donald Richardson, & Romana Lavalas**

Mother's Kitchen was named an Outstanding Volunteer Group for their service at Bailey's Shelter. Mother's Kitchen of Northern Virginia is one chapter of an international network of charities. Under their local coordinator Bhanumathi Krishnan, Mother's Kitchen has been preparing and serving meals at Bailey's at least twice-a-month for over ten years. They also provide additional meals in the winter months for the extra shelter guests in hypothermia prevention programs.

# Giving Tuesday - Have Your Gift Doubled!

We're excited to share that several generous friends have pledged to match up to \$20,000 in donations made to New Hope Housing between November 10 and November 30, 2021, for Giving Tuesday!

To get your gift matched, donate online at [www.newhopehousing.org](http://www.newhopehousing.org) today or return the enclosed card with your gift.

Giving Tuesday is a global giving day held annually on the Thursday after Thanksgiving. Your gift will provide hope and hospitality for over 350 people a day in shelter and supportive housing- and even more during hypo season!

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

## Welcome New Board Members!

We're proud to announce the newest members of our Board of Directors! Each of these volunteers joined the board on July 1st to serve for three years.

Clockwise from top left: Charade Estes, Program Control Principal at SAIC and our new Board Secretary; Stephanie Johnson, Realtor of Smiling Realtor Associates LLC; Nyree Wright, Principal of NW Consulting LLC; and Paul Stanford, Economic Development Program Specialist at DC Dept. of Housing & Community Development.

Thank you all for making this commitment to serve our community!



It's time to rethink homelessness.

Learn More and Get Involved

New Hope Housing

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[www.newhopehousing.org](http://www.newhopehousing.org)