

## A Place To Be

Not long after giving birth to her son, Aaran had a series of strokes that led to paralysis, inability to speak, memory loss, and anxiety. What followed was years of struggling to hold a job and a stable place to live. Now after two years at Mondloch Place, Aaran wants people to know that with the right advocates, if you keep praying and pushing through, "your path will be infinity."

Read more about Aaran's journey on page 3.



Aaran and Carrie Sue at  
Mondloch Place

## Congrats to our Volunteers of the Year!



Jan Sacharko and Shelley Brosnan

We're thrilled to announce Shelley Brosnan as our 2022 Volunteer of the Year! Her name is well known to nonprofits across NOVA as she serves somewhere every day! Ms. Brosnan has been a faithful and dedicated meal provider for our shelters almost every week since the pandemic began, making over 2,000 meals since she started. She always jumps in when there is a service gap because she wants no one to go hungry. She's an amazing person and we're truly grateful for her!

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## Note From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to share that I'll be staying on as New Hope Housing's interim executive director through the winter as the board of directors continues their search for a permanent director. They have not yet found the right person.

When the search began earlier this year, I was asked by the board if I would I stay on longer if needed, so they would have the time they needed to get the best candidate. I said "yes" and I am glad that I did. When I started with NHH I knew I would make progress, but also hit some bumps along the way. Both have happened. When an organization transitions from a long-term executive director (Pam Michell led NHH for 31 years) new ways of looking at issues and new ways of addressing them emerge. It is an exciting time, but also a challenging time. I have learned a great deal from all of you.

When I was a new cop about 30 years ago, I helped drive unsheltered homeless adults to a winter shelter during a terrible snowstorm. When I got to that shelter, I was amazed by the team there. The shelter itself could have used many more resources, but that staff was so welcoming and friendly, and you could see and feel the love they had for their homeless neighbors. That experience of love and hospitality – and demonstration of the need – is what first interested in me in working on homelessness issues. I see those same values in everyone at New Hope.

Back in the spring, I participated in our Over The Edge fundraising event and rappelled down the 160-foot Hilton in Crystal City. I was nervous when I approached this event. But what made me feel safe was the competence of the people checking me in. These people were experts. They checked my equipment multiple times. And they made sure I knew what I was doing as I prepared to take that first step.



I feel that way about the team here at New Hope Housing. I was relatively new to so many aspects of what we do, but we have great people here. I'm grateful to have a dedicated team so we can accomplish the challenging task of ending homelessness together.

I have met so many wonderful volunteers and supporters that have shown me what a community can accomplish together. I'm grateful to be working here with you.

I'll keep you all updated throughout the winter of our progress on these issues and search for our permanent director. Thank you for your support of New Hope Housing.

William W. Gorman, Interim Executive Director

## Aaran's Place To Be

Aaran is from Falls Church and has lived in Northern Virginia all her life. She's had many jobs. Her favorite has been working as a veterinarian technician in an animal hospital. Life has never been easy, but it didn't get hard until after she gave birth to her son in 2007. Just a few months later, she had a stroke that caused paralysis of her left side. Aaran couldn't talk for over a year. Doctors feared she wouldn't walk again.

She persisted in her physical therapy and made progress. However, she eventually had a total of four strokes that made normal life nearly impossible. Aaran had trouble maintaining her job and relationships, and landed in jail in 2018. While in jail, she lost her condo and her car was repossessed, making it even harder when she got out. "It's a real struggle when you get out of jail; there's nowhere for you to go." Friends and other people in her life vanished. She soon found herself at the hypo shelters, sleeping on a cot.



**Aaran With Her Car She Bought Herself!**

While in shelter, she started working with the Operation Stream Shield litter program and found it to be very rewarding as she prepared to reenter the workforce. In 2019, Aaran jumped at the chance to move into Mondloch Place where she would have her own small apartment. Anxiety attacks caused more setbacks but she pushed on.



**Aaran's Message to All**

Carrie Sue began working at Mondloch Place as a case manager in May 2021 and the two of them clicked. "Carrie Sue has been like a guardian angel." With a little bit of support, Aaran soon got her car, and got it registered and insured by herself. She updated her resume and asked Carrie Sue to help her with mock job interviews. Aaran is now back working with the veterinarian and doing what she loves to do.

In July, Aaran moved to her own apartment. She's started a savings account for her son and hopes to go back to school. "With all that I was going through, I just needed a home. A place to be."



## Thanks For All You Do Round Here!

Eleven compassionate individuals and groups were honored for their service on August 13th at our annual Volunteer Celebration. We count ourselves lucky every day to have such wonderful neighbors!



**Donald Richardson & Mihran Miller**

Mihran Miller received this year's Allie McConnell Youth Service Award! Mihran created a special resource pamphlet for guests of the RPC Shelter in Arlington. It includes free and low-cost sources of help to meet all basic needs. It's a big help for all guests and in regular use. Mihran earned a special Boy Scout badge for his efforts - and we're proud to recognize him, too!

George November & Nancy Cavanaugh have been volunteering monthly since March 2015, making healthy and delicious dinner for Bailey's Shelter. George created an insulated cart to ensure dinner is always fresh and hot, and arrives neatly at the shelter every night. They fill in on short notice when someone has had to cancel, and their desserts are amazing. Try Nancy's peach cobbler if you get the chance!

Ms. Joy Miller has made Thanksgiving brighter at RPC Shelter the past two years and is an Outstanding Volunteer. She had been a bagged lunch volunteer for years, but always looking to do more, she has also recruited her community to bake pies and special treats for shelter guests. Along with her son, Mihran, they decorate the shelter to brighten everyone's spirits at the holidays. We're grateful for her!

Providence Presbyterian Church has been full of Outstanding Volunteers for years and we're grateful for all of them! We've counted on them for dinner at Bailey's shelter every 2nd Wednesday of the month for over 20 years. They are very active during hypothermia season, supplying lunches, snack bags, and more so everyone is well fed. To them and their leader, Mary Lee Di Spirito, we give a heartfelt "thank you."



**Providence Presbyterian Church**

## Volunteers Are The Best



### National Council of Negro Women - Northern Virginia Section

Snap for our Community Champion: the Northern VA Section of The National Council of Negro Women! This wonderful group hosts an incredible coat and supply drive for the MLK Jr. Day of service annually at the Bailey's Shelter. Through their recruiting of several Black fraternities and sororities, as well as other community groups, they collect thousands of items for our homeless neighbors. It's an amazing effort complete with a hot meal, too!

St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church and Metropolitan DC Mission & Outreach Committee received a joint Outstanding Group Volunteer award for their service at Bailey's Shelter. They have prepared and served meals for years, but are always finding new ways to meet unmet needs. They prepare survival kits for the winter, host donation drives for anything needed, and make additional donations to ensure good health for all. Special thanks to Betty & John Slanta!

The Marymount University Saint's Center for Service has been a partner for years, matching students for projects at New Hope Housing that have included Welcome Home Basket drives, hosting Bingo nights, deep-cleaning group homes and shelters, and making meals for several sites. We're thankful for the Saint's Center for including us in their mission!

Sandra Shelton is an amazing all-around volunteer at RPC Shelter. For the past 2 years, she has been an employment volunteer, clothing closet manager, and mentor. She has become a friend to residents and staff alike. We're grateful she found us!

Madelyn Stoops is new to New Hope, but already making an impact. She is willing to do anything to help at RPC and has assisted case managers, sorted donations, helped at the front desk, and stood in at community events. We're happy to have her serve with us!



St. Katherine Greek Orthodox & Metropolitan DC

## We Went Over The Edge!

You may have heard that we did something a little different for our spring fundraiser this year. On May 6th, we took over the Hilton Crystal City and had over 80 friends and supporters rappel down the side! The rain slowed us down a little, but did not stop the fun. From 9 am to 5 pm, we cheered everyone on from our ground-level festival in "The Landing Zone" as each person descended 160 feet. It was a fantastic day and raised over \$230,000!



**The District Church Team**

Each participant raised at least \$1,000 for the opportunity to rappel. We want to thank each of them again for their incredible efforts and the impact this has on our neighbors.

Many thanks to our partners at Keller Williams MetroCenter for staffing our event committee, ensuring the event went smoothly, sponsoring, and recruiting over 40 volunteers!

Huge thanks also to Hilton Crystal City for letting us climb down their building! They rolled out the red carpet for us and made it a very special day.



**Matt de Ferranti & Jeff McKay Prepare to Go Over The Edge**

A special preview event took place on the evening of May 5th, (thanks to sponsor TV One Networks). At this event, we were joined by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Jeff McKay; and Arlington County Board member Matt de Ferranti. They did not race each other down the building, but Jeff won! Rappelling that night also were Hilton General Manager, Charlie Hill; Rosemary Hughes of UPS; Lois Cook of the DC Divas; and Teo Armus from The Washington Post.





## And You Can, Too!

Over The Edge was a day of fun, camaraderie, and overcoming fear. And you can do it, too, because we're going back Over The Edge on May 5, 2023!

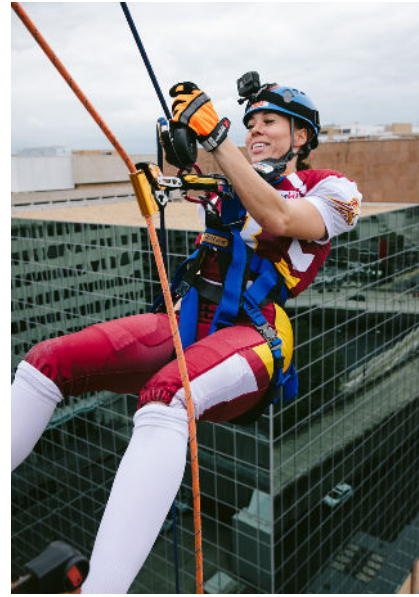


Carrie Sue and her family & friends rappelled too!

We hope you can join us as we go back to the Hilton in 2023. Please visit the event website [www.OTEnewhope.com](http://www.OTEnewhope.com) to learn more about the event or contact [jsacharko@newhopehousing.org](mailto:jsacharko@newhopehousing.org)



NHH board member, Lianne Wang, and her sister Li-Ping rappelled together!

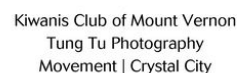


Lois Cook of the DC Divas, the women's Washington football team

14 Stories of  
New Hope!  
**over the  
EDGE**  
new hope  
housing

**THANK YOU  
SPONSORS!**

Greg & Kim Garcia



# Double Your Impact on Giving Tuesday!

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 9 and November 29, 2022, 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 day of giving 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 spread the word, please contact Jan Sacharko at 703-799-2293 extension 27, or [jsacharko@newhopehousing.org](mailto:jsacharko@newhopehousing.org)

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## Congrats to our Employee of the Year!

Please join us in congratulating Priyanka Khanal who was named New Hope Housing's 2022 Employee of the Year! Pri has been the employment case manager at the RPC Shelter in Arlington for 2 years, and is a graduate of Marymount University. She is known for being a team player, always helping her coworkers, and for going above and beyond for her clients. We're so glad to have you on our team, Pri!



**Priyanka with former client Victor**



It's time to rethink homelessness.

Learn More and Get Involved

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