



December, 2015

*“In the D.C. luxury housing market, \$2 million is the new \$1 million”*

*The Washington Post, November 10, 2015*

Dear Friend,

“Cornerstone is a community of caring where formerly homeless people with AIDS and chronic substance abuse can rest, heal and grow towards a positive future in the loving, accepting, patient environment of home.”

Nearly ten years ago Tom Copps, our first Executive Director, wrote that in his first letter to a small group of Cornerstone friends and supporters. At year’s end, Tom sat down and reflected on the first year of Cornerstone and his anger with the injustice he saw in a society that failed to help those who were among its most vulnerable members. He wrote:

“The anger at injustice fuels our attempts to advocate for those who suffer because of it – providing housing at Cornerstone and advocating for fair and clean permanent housing when they are ready to move to the next phase of their life in the world. The compassion moves us to touch these dear ones in their pain through our little community – almost like a midwife assisting and celebrating the slow birth of their wholeness.”

Since Tom sent those letters, Cornerstone has grown and moved to a new home, which we successfully purchased this year, with funds from Mayor Vincent Gray’s Housing Production Trust Fund. We have been blessed and encouraged by the growing number of friends and supporters whose faith in our mission sustained us in our early years and keeps our doors open every day, open so that our community can continue to provide a safe place for our residents to heal. Because the need that Tom identified - for fair and clean permanent housing - has not lessened; if anything it has increased.


The *Washington Post* headline tells why. True, Cornerstone residents are not in the market for luxury housing when they are ready to transition from our community. All they want is affordable housing. In a city where 18% of single family home sales this year were sold for \$1 million or more, affordable housing is becoming scarier by the day.

As Reggie noted in his last letter, because the District of Columbia government decided to reorient its HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) program and

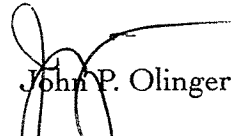
the subsequent change in the eligibility criteria for our existing HOPWA grant, Cornerstone lost nine months of grant income. We were not the only program whose funding was cut, which means that there are many fewer programs available for needy men and women living with HIV.

Cornerstone will continue to provide a place where men in recovery can find a community in which they support each other on the road to a better life. Our commitment to the mission outlined by Tom Cops is as strong as ever, just as the need is as great, if not greater,

We hope that you will consider Cornerstone as you consider your year-end contributions. The days grow shorter, the nights longer and colder. We want to continue to provide light and warmth, hope and the promise of a better future for our residents as they rebuild their lives.

  
Reginald A. McCall

Executive Director

  
John P. Olinger  
Board President