



June 29, 2015

Dear Friends:

Soon the sounds of hammering will mix with the squawks and chatter of the jays in the trees around Cornerstone. In the coming weeks, contractors will begin the planned renovations to our Cornerstone home once the funding process is completed with the District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The renovations will ensure that our home is comfortable, well-appointed, and up-to-date.

It has taken eight years for Cornerstone to own its facility—the home we offer to men who have known homelessness and hopelessness. From the beginning, we have worked day-by-day to reach this milestone. As a certified substance abuse counselor, I am struck that recovery for our residents happens in just the same way. As a community, residents and staff work together every day to strengthen recovery and reach personal goals.

At this proud and pivotal point in Cornerstone's history, I found myself thinking back to when I first learned about Cornerstone and its unique emphasis on the use of "community" and graduated consequences to support the health and well-being of the men.

I understood right away how different Cornerstone was from other programs serving homeless men with substance abuse and other health conditions. Here, a man is given a realistic chance, or two, or three, to recover. If he relapses, he can return to Cornerstone to work on his "wrong choice" with the help, support, and wisdom of the community. No longer is a man evicted to start again from "below the bottom," with a low opinion of himself reaffirmed.

At Cornerstone, I know that men have an opportunity to truly rebuild their lives. I often ask residents, "What were you like before addiction?" "Who did you want to be?" Armed with forgiveness, love, and basic human dignity, each man can make the choices that lead to a new life as they envision it. I have seen, first hand, that getting a "second" chance, an opportunity to make a different choice, can break a pattern and change a life.

As work on Cornerstone's facility proceeds, bringing new vibrancy to our home, we continue to work together on the creating new futures for those who come to live inside its walls. I am asking you to take a moment to make a financial contribution to Cornerstone and its unique program of second chances. With your help, Cornerstone and the men it serves have achieved important milestones in the past eight years. With your help, there are more to come.

With gratitude for your support and contribution.

Reginald A. McCall  
Executive Director