



October 12, 2015

Dear Friends:

First, the good news. The extensive renovations to our facility on 4800 Arkansas Avenue are proceeding on schedule. While a completion and move-in date is not yet set, we anticipate moving into our "new" home in the coming weeks. Virtually every day, I visit Arkansas Avenue to see for myself the progress being made. I speak to the workers and resolve any questions. I watch the old floors being ripped up, appliances removed and replaced, and wiring and plumbing redone. I have also seen new cabinets that had to be replaced because they were not compliant with Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements and a few other remodeling snafus. Still, we all have our bags packed, ready to return home soon. We plan to have a welcome home event and hope you will be able to join us.


Next, the not so good news. At the end of September, we learned that Cornerstone's largest government grant will not be renewed, effective immediately. Even though our existing contract included a third year of funding, the agency chose to re-award funds going forward using new eligibility criteria that largely excludes the Cornerstone program. Overall, far fewer supportive housing programs in the District were funded as a result of this change in eligibility. The funding gap for Cornerstone is large.

Despite this funding setback, we are actively taking multiple steps to address this most recent challenge. For instance, we are: (1) applying for new and renewal funding from several private foundations; (2) planning for a strengthened online presence for Cornerstone; (3) engaging Board members in fundraising; (4) responding with proposals to funding opportunities to expand the Cornerstone program that reach additional individuals with housing and services; (5) identifying and taking action to reduce operating expenses; (6) submitting a budget request for a 3-month extension of the expired contract; and (7) seeking additional support from Cornerstone donors.

Our residents know that Cornerstone is there for them throughout the ups and downs of their lives. Will you help Cornerstone today as it faces this current funding gap?

Thank you and stay tuned for our next update.

Sincerely,


Reginald A. McCall
Executive Director