

HOUSE OF DIVINE GUIDANCE, INC.

2017-18

Annual Report



CONTENTS

Message From Dr. Donna Robinson	2
Mission	3
Programs	3
Programs Impact	4
Financial Support	5
Looking Forward	5
Donate & Volunteer	6





Message from Dr. Donna Robinson

Dear Friends,

Dr. Donna Robinson, affectionately known as Dr. D or Doc by her clients, is the founder and Executive Director of House of Divine Guidance. A licensed social worker with a PhD in Education, Dr. Robinson has a long history in child welfare, low-income housing, and family preservation. She has tirelessly served the homeless for the past 26 years most of those years providing food and shelter from her home. She remembers only to well when she was homeless. Were it not for the kindness of a family who took her in, her life may have turned out much like those of her clients. Dr. Robinson now pays it forward giving HOPE to her clients seeing in them a reflection of her experience with unemployment, hunger, divorce, child abuse, assault, abandonment, mental health challenges, cancer, and domestic violence. Dr. Robinson takes the same fight she used to overcome her circumstances to equip others to do the same.

House of Divine Guidance (HDG) has a heart for the homeless. Homelessness is a growing problem in the DC Metro Area. Our goal is to provide a safe and nurturing environment to help homeless women and children work towards stability. This is done through Winter Haven Emergency Shelter. Winter Haven Emergency Shelter provides HOPE for homeless women and children when all other shelters are full or they fail to meet shelter requirements. Entering our 5th year, House of Divine Guidance has housed a total of about 300 residents, 53% children and 47% women.

Thank you!



Three Programs = One Mission

The mission for House of Divine Guidance, Inc. (HDG) is to help homeless people rebuild their lives, by providing them with housing, physical and emotional support, to move out of homelessness, unemployment or underemployment.

Programs



Winter Haven Emergency Shelter

Winter Haven operates December - March each year in partnership with area churches. This past season 91 residents were served. In addition to providing a warm place to sleep and two hot meals, residents are helped to gain employment, stable housing, clothing, eligible benefits, counseling and needed resources. We make it our mission to ensure every child is in school and shelter is provided during the day when temperatures fall below freezing or when school is cancelled due to the snow.

Residents receive more than shelter, they feel the LOVE of Christ. That is what sets Winter Haven apart from all other shelters. We pray with residents, encourage them, council them, hold empowerment sessions, and create a sense of family. Connections are built that go beyond staying in the shelter. Listen to a resident who benefited from the LOVE shown at Winter Haven Emergency Shelter. [Click to listen.](#)



Lighthouse Transitional Program

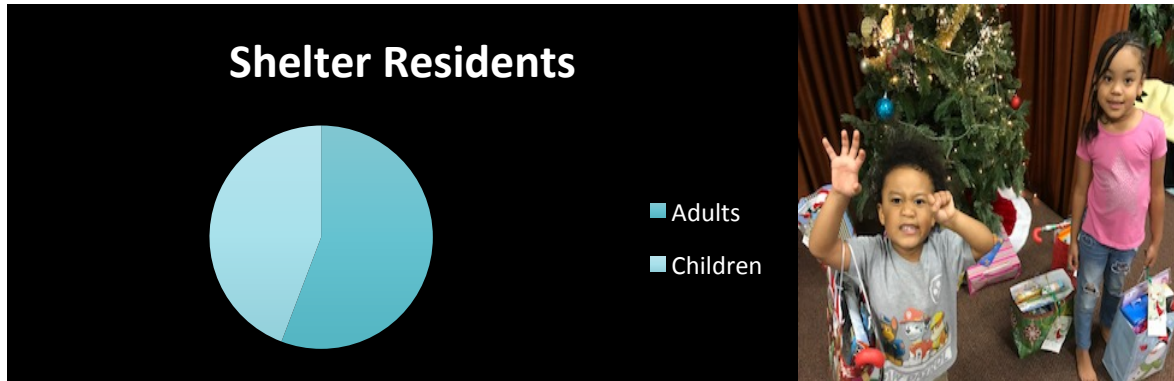
The Lighthouse Transitional Program provides additional supports to residents served through Winter Haven both past and present, as well as other homeless women in need. We also provide financial support to for training, childcare and transportation. Professionals donate their time to provide job skills training, lifeskills workshops and counseling. Last year a baby shower was provided for five expecting mothers.

Annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Program

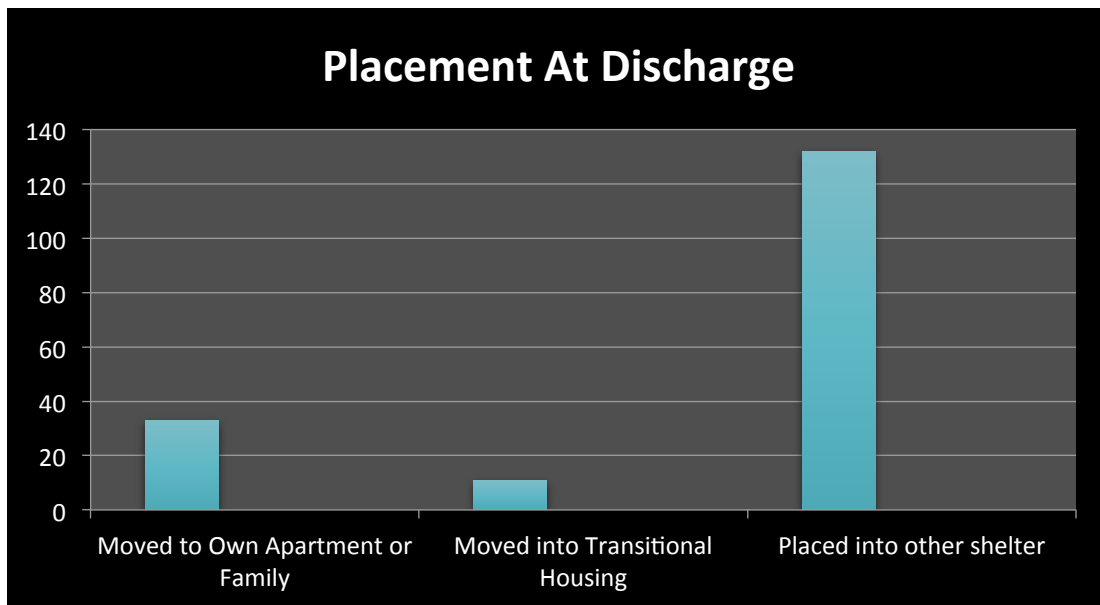
Each year HDG supports the homeless through our annual "Just Like Home" Thanksgiving Luncheon and Christmas concert "For The Love Of All". Homeless throughout the county are invited to participate. No one is turned away. For Christmas, the community donates gifts. Children are served from the shelter both present and years past. Dinner is served and a concert is held for the children by recording artist, Doreen Vail. Ms. Vail enjoys sharing her talent to bring joy to the hearts of others. Listen to the story of a resident [\(click\)](#) who found JOY with House of Divine Guidance.



Program Impact – (Outputs vs Outcomes)



Shelter Residents Served 2017-2018: 82 Adults & 65 Children



Residents at discharge are placed into family shelter within the county, long-term transitional housing programs (11), with family or into their own apartments (33). Ninety percent (132) of all residents are placed at discharge.

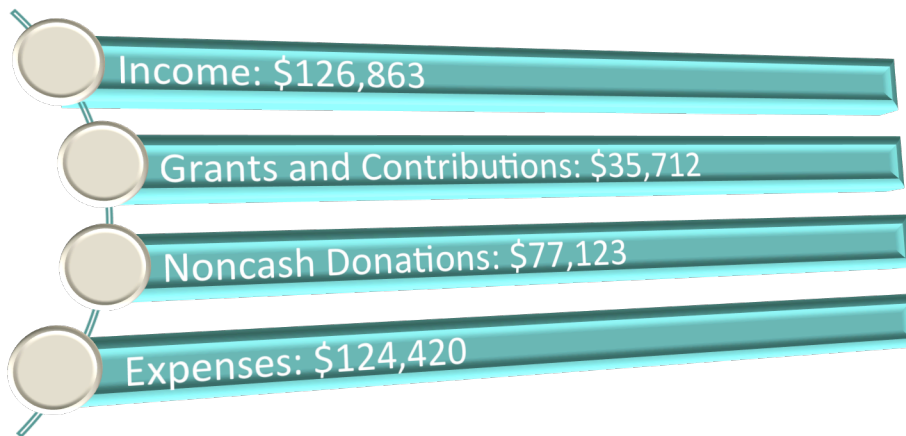




Financial Support

House of Divine Guidance depends on the generosity of its supporters and partners to continue the services provided to homeless residents. In 2017, contributions for program support were \$126,863. Much of this financial support (\$77,123) comes in noncash contributions of volunteer time, supplies and food. Over 30 volunteers provide service throughout the year with for its many programs.

HDG thanks its many partner churches and organizations for their financial support and service of its members/students: Sligo Adventist Church, Takoma Park Adventist Church, Filipino-American Capital Seventh Day Adventist Church, People’s Community Baptist Church, Colesville United Methodist Church, Good Hope Union United Methodist Church, Silver Spring United Methodist Church, Van Buren United Methodist Church, Baltimore-Washington Conference of United Methodist Church, Shiloh Food Program, Washington Adventist University, Montgomery College, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

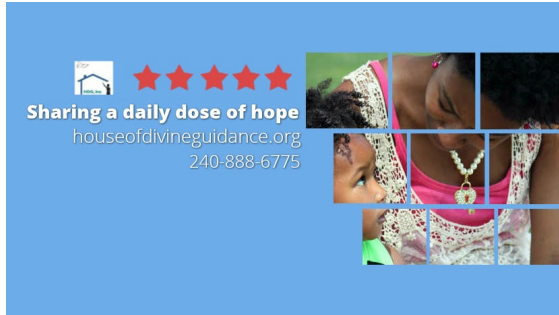


Program expenses were primarily offset by donations from our partners. This includes donated space for the shelter valued at \$6000 and donated staff time valued at \$63,922. All staff are volunteers with the exception of paid weekend overnight staff for five of the 12 weeks of the shelter. Dr. Robinson provided all other overnight supervision.

Looking Forward

HDG has four primary goals for the upcoming year: 1. Employ staff for overnight supervision. 2. Secure one facility for winter emergency shelter. 3. Secure facility for year-round emergency and day shelter. 4. Increase funding to expand services and staff.





We Need Your Help

House of Divine Guidance is committed to rebuilding lives one brick at a time. Every donation received goes directly to support residents we serve.

Every Penny Matters

House of Divine Guidance (HDG) appreciates your support. Donations are used to provide services and housing to those wishing to rebuild their lives. You can support us in several ways:

- Shop Online and merchants contribute to HDG
- One time, monthly or annual financial gift
- Purchase bricks for the Lighthouse

Non-financial

- Clothing for adults and children (preferably new)
- Perishable and nonperishable food
- Toiletry items (toothbrush, toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, comb, brush, deodorant, etc.)
- Towels and bed linen
- Educational books, CDs, DVDs or assessments for computer, financial or other skills training

Volunteer and Help Make a Difference

- Volunteer to provide training, workshops, or to help out in other capacities
- Volunteer to provide childcare for women while looking for work
- Volunteer to help at Winter Haven Emergency Shelter
- Volunteer to share special talents with residents
- Volunteer administrative, marketing, accounting, or fundraising expertise

- Volunteer with the Winter Haven Emergency Shelter
- Volunteer around the office with phone calls and other tasks
- Volunteer in a different way: _____

Please visit our website <http://www.houseofdivineguidance.org> to learn more, or call us at 240.888.6775. Send this form by mail to our office at 6 Avonshire Court, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

6

Connect With Us!

(240) 888-6775 | help@houseofdivineguidance.org

