

# Housing Starts



## From a Grateful Mother...

“In the last 5 years, I have had to face things that I never wanted to face. Without your help and guidance, that would have never been possible. There is a lot I could say about being a part of WHC; however, I would just like to say thank you for showing me a new way to live and look at things. If it weren't for you, who knows where I would be right now? I have a great amount of gratitude and utmost respect for the kindness you have shown me and my family.”

My name is Patricia. I am a 39 year old proud mother of 5 children ranging in age from 5 to 22 years old. I have been in the Women's Housing Coalition for about 5 years; I am in my 5th year of recovery. I was referred from the Safe House to The Calverton where I began the process of recovering. I progressed to the Susanna Wesley House where I regained custody of my 2 youngest sons (Carlos & Thomas). I also received case management services, life skills, and individual counseling for myself

and my sons. I am now residing in the “scattered site” component of the program where I have moved towards independence and self-sufficiency. I am employed fulltime and have plans to get married and purchase a home for my family. My goals are to open a group home for the elderly and disabled and to become a pharmacy technician.

*Thanks,  
Patricia*

### *What does 30 mean to you?*

Thirty years!! Like 18 and 21, 30 years is a milestone in the life cycle of people, as well as organizations. A recent Google inquiry into the significance of the number 30 brought some interesting results.

The number 30 deals with explosive creativity and discovery. Deeper meaning is derived from 30 when the whole number is broken down into separate parts. Beginning with the symbolic meaning of threes which deal with new ideas, advancement, and expansive development, threes also refer to partnerships that lead to new ideas, directions, and motives. When three is combined with the power of ten, all of these attributes are amplified into the whole number.

Sound crazy? Our history will help you understand... *continued on page 7*

## From the Director

Dear Friends:

In these times, it can be difficult to focus on the things about our lives that have true significance. Am I a good person? Do I help others? Do I spend time with the people I care about and those that care about me?

At the WHC, we see every day the incredible effort and energy our residents put in to rebuild their lives. Many residents who leave our program keep in touch with us and let us know how they are doing. For this newsletter, my From the Director is not from me. It is from a former resident. As you read it, I invite you to focus on the things in your lives that have true significance.

*Hi Joann,*

*I hope you still remember who I am. When you began working as Executive Director of the WHC, you and I began our relationship by shucking corn for the annual crab feast. I was in school at that time, working on my Masters in Social Work. I left the WHC last September 2008 and I promised to keep you abreast of my progress.*

*I am still living in the apartment where I moved when I left WHC. My job is going well-I have been employed*

*full-time as a Social Worker for the Baltimore County Health Department. I am doing case management with a caseload of about 45 individuals. I have been in the position since May 2008. I have learned a lot during that time.*

*I am working toward getting my LCSW-C license. As you know I received my LGSW license in November 2007.*

*I just purchased a new vehicle. It is the first time I have had my own car since 1988. I hope to be able to purchase my own house sometime in the near future.*

*Joann, I am thankful for all WHC did for me in my time of extreme need. Keep up the good work!*

*J.W.*

I hope that reading this letter has touched you in some way. I know it did me.

Sincerely,



Joann Levy, Executive Director

## Jenkins House Community

One year ago, twenty-two women came together at The Margaret Jenkins House. Some were friends, some did not know anyone. Although each woman had her own hopes and fears, all shared the common goals of reaching their individual levels of self-sufficiency, restoring dignity and integrity into their lives and creating a community at Jenkins House. The first 13 women who moved into Jenkins on September 23, 2008 came from other WHC Programs. They were honored to be the first residents to move into our new building and are still delighted to show their building off to visitors. These residents also became mentors for the new women as they moved in.

To continue to encourage the community spirit at Jenkins, the WHC, through a grant from Enterprise Foundation, brought Amy Connolly and her S.H.I.N.E.

Program to the women. This 8 week series of workshops stands for Support, Honor, Inspire, Nurture, and Evolve. The Jenkins women truly began to evolve as they discovered unity, teamwork, trust and gratitude. The Jenkins residents have a saying, "I am my sister's keeper."

Last November, the women held their First Annual Jenkins Thanksgiving Dinner in the Jenkins basement. Everyone contributed to the dinner and invited family members, friends and staff. Weekly, different residents prepare dinners and all are invited. For the July 4th holiday, they held a barbeque for family, friends and staff. In addition, the residents have movie nights, line dancing and slumber parties for their grandchildren. As a community of women, The Jenkins residents offer one another encouragement, a sympathetic ear and most importantly, they celebrate each other successes.

# About Citi

Citi Global Community Relations, working in close coordination with the Citi Foundation and with businesses across the franchise, is actively engaged in lending, investing and providing services to make communities better across the United States. Through partnerships with local, non-profit organizations, Citi continues to focus on areas that enable us to leverage the strength of our company's financial services expertise, global network and local presence in communities all over the world.

In response to the housing and mortgage crisis, Citi is diligently working with leaders in industry, government and communities to develop innovative programs and

solutions to help homeowners in distress keep their homes. Of the top banking companies involved in the U.S. Government's Making Home Affordable Program, Citi completed the biggest share of trial modifications—covering 33% of its eligible delinquent loans.

Citi is an active member of HOPE Now, a cooperative effort among counselors, investors and lenders to maximize outreach efforts to homeowners in distress. Citi also is a national sponsor of the NeighborWorks Center for Foreclosure Solutions, through which we are able to greatly magnify our outreach to at-risk borrowers and first-time homeowners.



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Thank you for your support.



## *Get ready 'cause here we come... The WHC to Celebrate 30 Years!!*

In 1979 the Women's Housing Coalition began with a group of 10 women and representatives from 17 organizations who were concerned about the lack of shelter and resources available to homeless women in Baltimore City. The Women's Housing Coalition had four initial goals: to make the community aware of the extent of homelessness among women, to advocate for solutions to the problems faced by homeless women, to develop housing resources and to develop collaborative approaches to the housing needs of homeless women. The founding members of the Women's Housing Coalition were: Mary Slicher; Alice Brock; Jane Harrison; Eleanor Mann; Alice Williams; Sr. Josanna Abromaitis; Jay Cherry; Joyce Kroeller; Roberta Gaines; Donna Keck.

The initial work of the Women's Housing Coalition, incorporated in 1980 focused on the need for emergency shelter for women. After the Model Shelter Bill was passed in 1982 the Women's Housing Coalition opened the Upton House which pioneered the concept of "second stage" housing for homeless women. In 1984 and 1985 the Women's Housing Coalition opened the Howell House and the Lombard House respectively, two more transitional houses to serve homeless women.

The Women's Housing Coalition works with the "continuum of care" model, which is comprised of five programs that help women, regain their self respect through stable housing and intensive case management. The Women's Housing Coalition defines success as an on-going process, not a strictly defined outcome or achievement.

After success with the Upton House, in 1990 the Women's Housing Coalition opened The Calverton, which continues to serve as the entry program for women entering the Women's Housing Coalition. This highly structured program is able to serve fourteen single women who are beginning on the path to rebuilding their lives.

Ten years later in 2000 the Margaret Bennett House was opened in historic Mt. Vernon. This program provides permanent housing to twenty-nine single women, though

less structured, women in this program continue to work towards their goals and receive case management services.

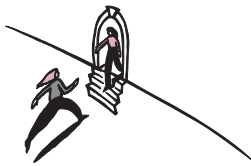
In December 2003 the Women's Housing Coalition in conjunction with a partnership with the Susanna Wesley House Board, opened the Susanna Wesley House, for women and their children. This entry level program for families provides intensive case management in a structured environment. Goals are outlined for mothers as well as their children.

In September 2008 the Women's Housing Coalition opened the Margaret Jenkins House; this building is able to serve twenty-two single women. Units at the Jenkins House resemble efficiency units in structure, with women sharing only a kitchen. The Jenkins House is less structured but focuses on continuing to assist women achieve their goals through case management services.

The last step in the Women's Housing Coalition "Continuum of Care" is the Scattered Site Program, which provides housing for both single women and families. Participants in the Scattered Site Program reside in apartments and houses throughout Baltimore City. These participants continue to receive Case Management Services but have demonstrated that they are able to live independently.

From the inception of the Women's Housing Coalition as an Ad Hoc organization in 1979 whose focus was to seek solutions to the problems facing homeless women. To the organization that thirty years later provides those solutions through permanent housing and case management services, The Women's Housing Coalition focus remains dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness for women and their children by providing affordable housing and supportive services to enable them to sustain social and financial independence.

The number 30 holds great significance for the WHC! Next spring we will be celebrating our birthday with a bang! Please watch your mail and our website for more information.



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*Opening doors to change*

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## The Greening of WHC

We at the WHC are moving forward and joining in the worldwide effort to become green. We are compiling an e-mail address list so that we will be able to send you our newsletter and event information on line. We do hope you will join us! **Please send your name, address and e-mail address to [mail@womenshousing.org](mailto:mail@womenshousing.org).**

Please be assured that your personal information is VERY important to us and we will not share it with any other organization. If you have any questions please contact Wendy, [wsager@womenshousing.org](mailto:wsager@womenshousing.org). Please do not send any questions or concerns to the mail address.

*How can local  
fashionistas  
help those in need  
this winter?*

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On the web: [www.womenshousing.org](http://www.womenshousing.org)



It brings out the best in all of us

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