

**On Target To Provide 55 Homes With  
Residential Opportunities For 160 Tenants**



# HOUSING UNLIMITED



A NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION SERVING ADULTS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES

Fall/Winter 2011/2012 ■ 1398 Lamberton Drive, Suite G1, Silver Spring, MD 20902-3414 ■ 301.592.9314

## Maryland Recognizes Housing Unlimited with Invitation to Pilot Program, Funds for 8 New Homes

I am so proud to serve as the President of the Board of Directors of Housing Unlimited. What an exciting year we have had!

In the past 12 months, we have been honored to be selected to participate in an innovative pilot program underway throughout the State of Maryland. This program will enable more individuals with psychiatric disabilities

the opportunity to live in housing that is less restrictive and more appropriate to their needed level of care. This is big news! Because there has been a multi-year freeze on

government-funded supervised housing, there have been few opportunities for individuals to move from acute care facilities to supervised housing and on to independent living with groups like Housing Unlimited.

Pilot program funding that we receive from the State of Maryland (with significant matching funds from Montgomery County) will allow Housing Unlimited to purchase eight new homes. That means that at least 20 new tenants will be offered a permanent affordable home that will enable them to become independent members of the community. These eight new homes will bring our total number of homes to 55; we will soon be serving nearly 160 people who are on the path to independence and recovery from psychiatric disabilities.

Today in Montgomery County, over 300 people are on our waiting list, hoping to find a place they can call home. Our organization has been moving in the right direction. But, there is so much more that must be accomplished to meet the needs of these individuals who are languishing in hospitals, homelessness or more restrictive housing.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*by Russell Phillips*



Our "Welcome Home" Celebration, held in May of this year, commemorated our wonderful public-private partnerships. Nearly 300 people attended our event as we honored Maryland Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, U.S. Congressman Chris Van Hollen and Montgomery County Housing and Community Affairs Director Rick Nelson and the successful partnerships that we enjoy with State, Federal and County governments.

Congressman Van Hollen is pictured above (2nd l.) with (l. to r.) HUI Board Member Robyn Raysor, HUI Executive Director Abe Schuchman and Emcee Debbie Jarvis of Pepco Holdings, Inc.

Photo courtesy of Ellie Van Houtte/www.ellievanhoutte.com

We need your help. Please support Housing Unlimited with a tax-deductible financial donation, gift of appreciated stock or real estate, or even donated furniture. We count on the generosity of our friends in the community to fuel our success.

I would like to thank two long-time Housing Unlimited Board members – Dan Sachs and Johnnie Mae Armstrong – who have retired from the Board after long-time service. I am very grateful to both of them for their years of service and commitment to the organization.

***Thank you again for your interest and support of Housing Unlimited. Together, we can help this organization serve more individuals with psychiatric disabilities!***

# HOUSING UNLIMITED

## The Annual Newsletter of Housing Unlimited, Inc.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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(Corporate affiliations are for purposes of identification only)

### STAFF

Abe M. Schuchman, Esq., *Executive Director*

LeyAna Crumpton, *Senior Associate Director*

Lisa Cook, *Associate Director*

Jessie Lavintman, *Associate Director*  
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Molly O'Glasser, *Associate Director*  
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Marjorie Goldman, CFRE, *Director of Development*

Elise Bryant, Roger L. Crutchfield, Jr.,

Ian Jackson, Diane Nowak,

*Program Associates*

Leon Young, *Accountant*

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## Community Partners Provide Essential Boosts

The continued support HUI has received from its wonderful public- and private-sector partners has enabled HUI to be a successful provider of homes to 138 adults with psychiatric disabilities. Funds HUI received from private sources were greatly compounded in value when used to secure substantial public-sector grants and below-market loans.

HUI has received generous public-sector support from **Maryland's Community Bond Program** and **Montgomery County Council Grants Program**. In addition, **Montgomery County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs** and **Department of Health and Human Services** through its **Mental Health Core Service Agency** and **Rental Assistance Program** provides ongoing pivotal support.

HUI is grateful for major grants of \$4,000 or more from **William S. Abell Foundation, BB & T Bank, The Honorable Ann Brown and Donald A. Brown, Capital One Bank, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Clark-Winchcole Foundation, Nancy Y. and Martin Cohen, Virginia and Lowell Denning, Fannie Mae Foundation, Edward and Janet Lewis Lublin, The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, Montgomery County Community Foundation, Office Paper Systems, Phase Foundation, Leila and Russell Phillips, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, and Ellen and Bernard Young.**

Many people on our board of directors and advisory board provide extraordinary volunteer services. In addition, continuing *pro bono* or reduced rate services are offered by caring professionals and service companies, including **Corporate Press, DARCARS, Henry's Housework, Inc., Heyman Mailing Services, Linowes and Blocher LLP, Mhley/Davis & Associates Inc., Pro-Tec Inspection Services, The Bean Bag, Village Settlements, and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.** HUI is also fortunate to have a wonderful cooperative relationship with **A Wider Circle** and **Jobs Unlimited, Inc.**

## The HUI Mission

Housing Unlimited, Inc., addresses the housing crisis for adults with psychiatric disabilities who reside in Montgomery County.

HUI:

- ▲ provides affordable, permanent housing opportunities
- ▲ empowers people to live independently
- ▲ helps people move from substandard housing
- ▲ helps people move from the homes of their aging parents
- ▲ provides public education, advocacy and community linkage
- ▲ brings people who need housing together in partnerships

## Teacher, Caregiver Gets Back on Track through HUI

“So far, it is going well,” sums up Nelly LaBennett in regard to her transition into her Housing Unlimited home. Nelly speaks in a strong, deliberate manner; her words – both positive and at the same time cautious – are carefully chosen. Nelly has indeed reached a nice place in her life. All the same, her journey to get to this place has often been a challenging one.



### MEET HUI'S TENANTS

Nelly first came to the United States in 1967 from Guyana to attend college and returned home in 1971 to begin a

career as a teacher. She shares that she was first diagnosed with a psychiatric disability in 1980 and came back to the United States for medical attention in 1991. Nelly has a big family. Her four brothers and one sister are spread between Guyana, Chicago, New Jersey and North Carolina. Her mother had resided in Silver Spring.

“My illness brought me to Housing Unlimited,” explains Nelly. Nelly first applied to Housing Unlimited to become a tenant in 2007. Although she soon came to the top



“My goal now is that I want to do tutoring... I'd like to teach science or biology.”

– HUI Resident Nelly LaBennett

of the Housing Unlimited waiting list, she declined the opportunity because she was caring for her mother who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. “I felt that I should take care of my mother,” she says in a matter of fact manner. Sadly, her mother passed away last year.

This March, Nelly was able to move into a Housing Unlimited home in Rockville. Nelly really likes her new home. “I like the area in which I live. There is great transportation, there are lots of buses,” explains Nellie. She adds, “I live next to the town center, very close to the library. On Memorial Day or Labor Day, I can go (to the library) for the

activities that they have.” Nelly is quick to add another practical benefit of her Housing Unlimited home: “The rent is cheap so that I am better able to pay my bills.”

Nelly also shares that she is active on the Housing Unlimited Tenants Council. The Council meetings and events provide welcome social activities for her.

Nelly's long-term goal is to get back to teaching: “My goal now is that I want to do tutoring. I want to have two or three students that I can meet in the library who aren't doing well in school. The subject I usually teach is biology. So I'd like to teach science or biology.”

### Won't You Help?

Other Montgomery County residents like Nelly need safe, affordable housing in order to recover and thrive.

Please help HUI's effort with a tax-deductible donation to:

Housing Unlimited, Inc.

1398 Lambertson Drive, Suite G1, Silver Spring, MD 20902-3414

or donate online at [www.housingunlimited.org](http://www.housingunlimited.org)

or call 301.592.9314 to learn about the many wonderful ways you can volunteer with HUI. Please also consider donating to HUI your gently used furnishings including couches, tables, chairs, night stands, etc.

**Federal employees**, please designate HUI (#16225) in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

**State employees**, please designate HUI (#5279) in the Maryland Charity Campaign.

**All employees**, please designate HUI (#8898) in the United Way Campaigns.

Call 301.592.9314 for housing applications.

# Forrester VP Steve Sullivan Addresses Homelessness with Action

Steve Sullivan, Vice President of Estimating and Purchasing for Forrester Construction, knows the value of a quality home and a safe space. It's one of the many reasons why he became involved with Housing Unlimited.

Steve serves as Vice President on the Board of Directors of Housing Unlimited. He has served on Housing Unlimited's Board for over two and a half years. Steve got involved after hearing a presentation about Housing Unlimited at a Community Services Committee meeting of the Washington Builders Congress. Steve was intrigued by Housing Unlimited's efforts to help people in mental health recovery have a nice home. "Housing Unlimited has a terrific mission," he says. "We help people move along the road to recovery and independence."

## MEET HUI'S BOARD

About his service on the Housing Unlimited Board, Steve explains, "I really enjoy working with Russ (Board President Russ Phillips) and all the members of the Board."

Steve comments that it has also meant a lot to him to meet and interact with the tenants from time to time. "When I have visited Housing Unlimited homes, they have always been very well kept up and the tenants have shared that they feel safe and comfortable," Steve explains. He is quick to add that Housing Unlimited has more work to do: "In these hard economic times, the need for our housing is growing. I'm very glad that we will be expanding this year and adding more homes."

In addition to his regular Board duties, Steve co-chaired Housing Unlimited's 15th Anniversary special event and has taken an active role in subsequent Housing Unlimited special events. For these events, he has made countless outreach calls to friends and colleagues: "When I speak to people, I really find that a lot of people are looking for ways to help the community. In fact, I am now getting some calls from people who helped out at last year's Welcome Home Celebration and they're asking me how they can get involved again this year. It's really great."



**"Housing Unlimited has a terrific mission. We help people move along the road to recovery and independence."  
– HUI Board Vice President Steve Sullivan**

Steve's community service extends beyond his volunteer work with Housing Unlimited. Steve serves on the Social Ministries Committee of his church, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg. Steve's church has a major focus on addressing homelessness and he is grateful that he has had the opportunity to introduce church members to the work of Housing Unlimited.

In addition to this service, Steve also participates on the board of the Associated General Contractors and has been working with Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County for some time. "I have worked diligently with Habitat for Humanity on some of their construction projects and served as coordinator of a number of their projects over the years," he explains.

On the rare occasions when he can carve out some free time, Steve and his wife, Lesa, enjoy travelling and most recently vacationed in China. Steve and Lesa have two children, Stephanie and Jonathan. Stephanie is in her first year of residency at the University of North Carolina Medical Facility and Jonathan works for Bechtel Construction Company in Frederick.

### Housing Unlimited invites you to consider. . .

- donation of appreciated securities to HUI. You can maximize your gift to HUI while eliminating capital gains taxes on appreciated securities that are transferred to and sold by HUI.
- giving opportunities that do not have an immediate financial impact on you and your family. You can name HUI as a beneficiary or contingency beneficiary of your will, retirement plan or life insurance policy.

To discuss your giving options, please call  
HUI Executive Director Abe Schuchman at 301.592.9314.