

Providing permanent, affordable homes and independent living for 175 Tenants!!!



# HOUSING UNLIMITED



A NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION SERVING ADULTS IN MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY

Fall/Winter 2015/2016 ■ 12125 Veirs Mill Road, Suite 201, Silver Spring, MD 20906 ■ 301.592.9314

## Support Our Effort to Bring More Folks Home

### Dear Friends:

It is such an honor for me to have been given the opportunity to serve as the new President of Housing Unlimited. I follow in the footsteps of my good friend, Russ Phillips. Russ has been such a dynamic and steady leader for the organization, and his commitment is inspiring to all of us who have had the pleasure of serving with him. I also want to thank long-time Board member Robyn Raysor who cycled off the Board of Directors this year. Robyn's thoughtful comments and kind-hearted nature will be sorely missed on the Board. However, we know that Robyn (as well as Russ) will remain involved in the business of Housing Unlimited and its mission to address the housing crisis for adults in mental health recovery throughout Montgomery County.

I started working with Housing Unlimited CEO Abe Schuchman and his dedicated staff 10 years ago as a newbie law firm associate attorney at Linowes and Blocher LLP. I cut my teeth reviewing County loan documents for Housing Unlimited and witnessed first-hand the organization's unwavering commitment to provide permanent, affordable, independent living for scores of County residents in mental health recovery.



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

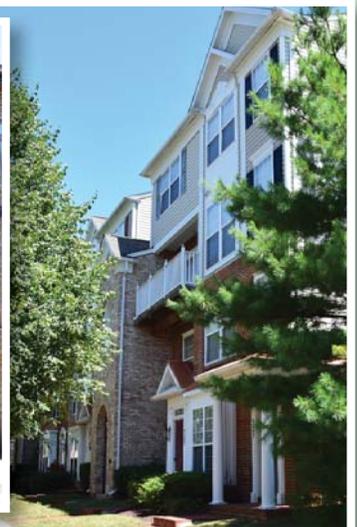
by Demetri Datch

Since I have been involved with the organization, I have seen Housing Unlimited acquire more than 20 homes in scattered sites throughout the County. The organization now owns 62 homes and serves 175 tenants.

But Housing Unlimited's work is just beginning. We have almost two hundred people on our waiting list hoping for a permanent affordable home. We must continue to reduce this number by acquiring more homes throughout the County.

All of us have an important role to play in this effort, and on behalf of the leadership of Housing Unlimited, I ask that you continue to pledge your support for an organization that makes all of us proud. **Thank you!**

Pictured here are some of Housing Unlimited's recent acquisitions, for a total of 62 homes serving 175 individuals throughout Montgomery County.



# HOUSING UNLIMITED

## The Annual Newsletter of Housing Unlimited, Inc.

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## Many Loyal Community Partners Help Housing Unlimited Succeed

The continued support Housing Unlimited has received from its wonderful public- and private-sector partners has enabled Housing Unlimited to be a successful provider of homes to 175 adults in mental health recovery. Funds Housing Unlimited receives from private sources greatly compound in value when used to secure substantial public-sector grants and below-market loans.

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

Housing Unlimited is grateful for major support of \$5,000 or more from **William S. Abell Foundation, Inc.; Bank of America; The Honorable Ann Brown and Donald A. Brown; The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Capital One Bank; Clark-Winchcole Foundation; Nancy Y. and Martin Cohen; DARCARS; John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation; Gannett Foundation; Edward and Janet Lublin; The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation; The Robert M. Minkoff Foundation; Montgomery County Community Foundation; Office Paper Systems; PEPCO; The Phase Foundation; Ernest and Rose Samuels Foundation; TD Charitable Foundation; Total Wine and More; 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 **Archeus Studio; Bethesda Big Train; Cristiane Brock; Central Wholesalers, Inc.; CohnReznick LLP; Corporate Press; D2Engineering; DARCARS; Denchfield Landscaping and Nursery, Inc.; Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland; Hess Construction; Heyman Mailing Services; Linowes and Blocher LLP; Mhley/Davis & Associates Inc.; Pro-Tec Inspection Services; Quality Window & Door, Inc.; Rapid Permit Service, Inc.; Jackie Simon Homes LLC; Village Settlements; and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.** Housing Unlimited is also fortunate to have a wonderful cooperative relationship with **A Wider Circle** and **Jobs Unlimited, Inc.**



# For Wanda Lee, It's Family, Faith, Fitness, AND Housing Unlimited

If you ask Wanda Lee what she enjoys, she will probably tell you about her three f's: family, faith, and fitness. Now in her tenth year of living in a Housing Unlimited townhome in Germantown, Wanda is a model of an active and engaged community member. She makes time for her three f's when she is not working at her job of 28 years at Asbury Methodist Village, a retirement home in Gaithersburg.

"My co-workers are like a second family. We laugh, talk, and have social gatherings," says Wanda. She also has close ties to her own family who always offer Wanda support to guide her through life's challenges.

Another source of strength for Wanda is her Christian faith. Recently, she began taking online Bible study classes and is enjoying learning more about her favorite scriptures. As for fitness, Wanda belongs to the Planet Fitness gym where you can find her hard at work on the treadmill or elliptical.

When asked what she likes about living with Housing Unlimited, Wanda is quick to say that she appreciates having an affordable place to live in a quiet suburban area.

Housing Unlimited is proud to have Wanda as a tenant, because she sets a stellar example of an active, responsible, and caring tenant and community member.



MEET  
HOUSING  
UNLIMITED'S  
TENANTS



Housing Unlimited Tenant Wanda Lee appreciates her affordable and quiet suburban home.

## Housing Unlimited's Mission

**Housing Unlimited, Inc., addresses the housing crisis for adults in mental health recovery who reside in Montgomery County.**

### WE:

- ▲ provide affordable, permanent housing opportunities
- ▲ empower people to live independently
- ▲ help people move from substandard housing
- ▲ help people move from the homes of their aging parents
- ▲ provide public education, advocacy, and community linkage
- ▲ bring people who need housing together in partnerships

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

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

**To discuss your giving options, please call Housing Unlimited CEO Abe Schuchman at 301.592.9314.**

**Call 301.592.9314 for housing applications.**

## Demetri Datch Offers Professional, Personal Perspectives to Boost Our Mission

Demetri Datch recently succeeded Russ Philips as President of Housing Unlimited's Board of Directors. Demetri has served on the Board and on the Welcome Home Celebration Committee for three years, but his ties to the organization reach back a decade. In that stretch, he has provided pro bono legal services while working with Linowes and Blocher LLP and more recently with Foulger-Pratt, where he is assistant general counsel.

Blessed in his professional and personal life (as the father of six and as a teenage cancer survivor), Demetri is "driven by the desire to give back to the community." In working with Housing Unlimited, he feels that his time and effort produce the greatest impact by making a difference in the lives of hundreds of persons while providing opportunity for recovery from an illness that affects both our tenants and their families. "I can relate on a parent and human level," he says. "To give parents peace of mind to know that their children are on a path to self-reliance makes me feel like I am participating in a very worthy cause."

Housing Unlimited fills a need in Montgomery County by providing an essential service – in the form of permanent, stable, affordable housing – for those in mental health recovery. About one-third of Housing Unlimited's tenants move into our homes from the homes of aging parents, with the remainder coming from substandard housing, homeless shelters, and supervised housing. Housing Unlimited provides its tenants with a chance to live on their own and become better integrated into the community.

"You can take this housing model and put it into every single county around the country," Demetri says, in emphasizing the *passion* he feels for Housing Unlimited. "It's so local. It's about

MEET  
HOUSING  
UNLIMITED'S  
BOARD

*"Housing Unlimited deals with affordable housing and people in mental health recovery... two big issues. Everybody in the community has to play a role."*

Board President Demetri Datch

real estate. I'm a real estate attorney and I work for a local real estate developer. I'm in the business of building communities. I get it, the value of being self-reliant and able to live in a community on your own. I get it!"

"In the big picture," he adds, as a leader hopeful to inspire his passion in others, "Housing Unlimited deals with affordable housing and people in mental health recovery – having an impact with these two big issues. Everybody in the community has to play a role."



Demetri on "Mount Olympus" at the Datch Family's Greek-themed Halloween 2015 (l. to r.): Andrew (Apollo, 10); Rachael (Hera); Ella Rose (Athena, 5); Abigail (Demeter, 2); Jenna (Aphrodite, 5); Demetri (Atlas); Charlie (Ares, 7); and Emma Grace (Artemis, 10). The Datch Family includes two sets of twins.

## Won't You Help?

Other Montgomery County residents like Wanda (see page 3) need safe, affordable housing in order to recover and thrive. Please help Housing Unlimited's effort with a tax-deductible donation to:

**Housing Unlimited, Inc.** 12125 Veirs Mill Road, Suite 201, Silver Spring, MD 20906  
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 Housing Unlimited.

Please also consider donating your gently used furnishings including couches, tables, chairs, night stands, etc.

**Federal employees**, please designate Housing Unlimited (#16225) in the Combined Federal Campaign.

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

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