



Kay Samms, 60

Kay is a breast cancer survivor who found herself on the road to homelessness after she lost her job while she was still being treated for cancer. After emptying her 401(k) and losing her home, Kay still struggled to pay for the drugs needed to treat her cancer. Eventually she found a referral that led her to NEW's New Transitions transitional housing program. "It's meant the world to me," says Kay. "Just to have a key to my own room and a bed after being homeless for three years is an honor." Demeaning is what Kay calls her years of homelessness. Today, however, she is in the final stages of interviews to work for the Smithsonian and is hopeful about the future. "I feel safe. It's come full circle," she explains. "Even though I still have some health issues, I want to work and I'll be working 'til they have to haul me out kicking."

New Endeavors by Women PROGRAM REPORT 2015





*I dedicate this poem to
the suffering multitude
whose only home is
a cardboard box,
who lack
what most of us
take for granted:
a proper home;
sufficient food;
clean clothing;
most of all, a friend.*

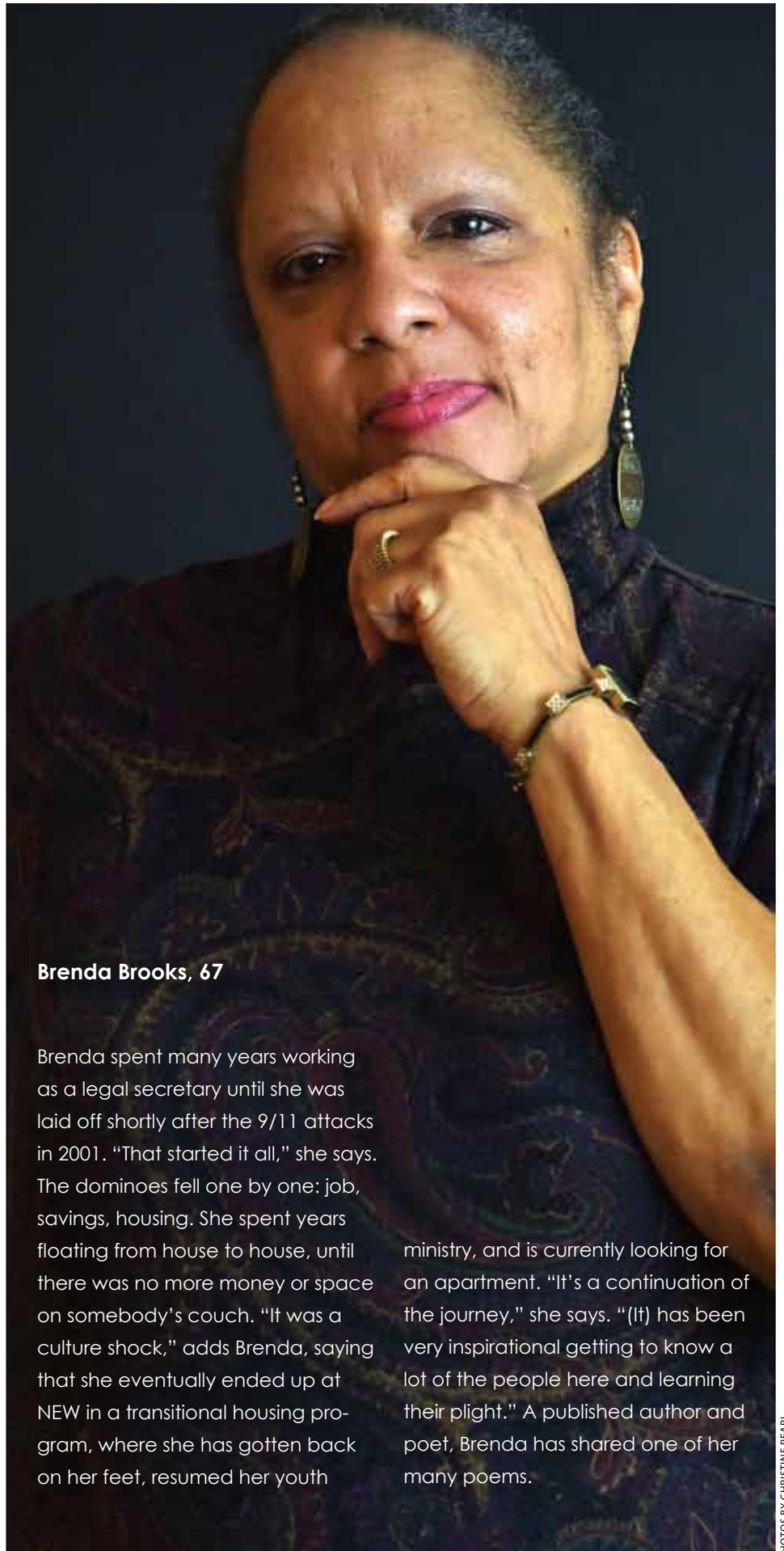
Dusk settles in
The familiar gray blanket
covers my space
Can't touch it, only see
Passersby look, but still don't see.

Ever care who I am?
Ever care what you see?
Was once like you
Done up nice.

The soft lights of the night
dance for you
And you, and you, and you
But shadow over my brownstone
Giving character to the
corrugated wallpaper
I call home.

Don't want your pity
It's OK to touch me
A handshake will do
A listening ear
A piece of bread.

'Til my change comes
Or I die.



Brenda Brooks, 67

Brenda spent many years working as a legal secretary until she was laid off shortly after the 9/11 attacks in 2001. "That started it all," she says. The dominoes fell one by one: job, savings, housing. She spent years floating from house to house, until there was no more money or space on somebody's couch. "It was a culture shock," adds Brenda, saying that she eventually ended up at NEW in a transitional housing program, where she has gotten back on her feet, resumed her youth

ministry, and is currently looking for an apartment. "It's a continuation of the journey," she says. "(It) has been very inspirational getting to know a lot of the people here and learning their plight." A published author and poet, Brenda has shared one of her many poems.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE PEARL

New Endeavors by Women's (NEW) programs address an urgent and growing need for housing for the most vulnerable District residents. Most importantly, our services make a measurable impact: *more than 80% of residents succeed in our programs, transition to more independent living, and move out of homelessness.*

This year, we proudly mark 28 years of successfully helping more than 3,000 women and more than 500 children. Our long-term goal is to end poverty and homelessness for the most vulnerable residents of the District of Colum-

bia. In working toward achieving that goal, NEW is responding proactively to the growing need in the District for homeless services for women and their families.

To that end, our most recent programs are meeting new needs. In one instance, we expanded to serve more unaccompanied homeless women over age 55 in our *New Journeys* program. We also took over operation of two facilities – *Rachael's House* – when Rachael's Women's Services sadly had to close their doors.

NEW operates seven housing programs: two transitional and five

permanent supportive programs, including two housing programs exclusively for families. Each year we provide as many as 140 women and 80 or more children with: safe shelter; advocacy and case management; independent living skills education; substance abuse recovery assistance; parenting skills training; academic enrichment activities; employment and career counseling; strategies for obtaining and maintaining permanent affordable housing; on-site support groups and workshops; therapeutic and recreational activities; and, permanent housing.



A UNIQUE APPROACH
TO HELP HOMELESS WOMEN
GET AHEAD...

NEW is guided by a mission of empowerment and action to change the lives of homeless women and children:

By partnering with homeless women, New Endeavors by Women creates new futures.

We provide a nurturing environment so that women can recognize their worth.

New Endeavors by Women transforms lives, by providing housing, fostering the development of life skills, and promoting education and employment,

to end the cycle of homelessness.

La'Tisha Edwards, 34

"The hardest part has been trying to get on my feet and get myself together," says La'Tisha of her journey over the past seven years. She moved from homeless shelter to homeless shelter until she finally found a home at Rachael's House in 2011. Today, La'Tisha works two jobs, visits regularly with her two children, and is looking toward the day when she can move into her own place and open her own business. "It's been a long journey," she adds.



**Teela Robinson, 30,
and Layla Robinson, 6**

"New Endeavors was everything for me," says Teela, who has been living in NEW's New Generations transitional housing program for two years with her daughter, Layla.

"I was literally living on the streets and going house to house before."

Today, Teela's life is stable, she's planning for a future that includes her own place to live, and she has a job working for a nonprofit that helps people with disabilities reintegrate into society.



We serve reunifying families in our New Generations transitional housing for up to two years; and families in our New Horizons permanent supportive housing may remain in the program for an open-ended amount of time. By providing comprehensive "model" support services, we help strengthen women's capacity to be heads of household, and offer women and children a chance to build life skills and forge stronger bonds as a family unit.

Our Youth Enrichment Program (YEP!) provides academic support and life skills development to our youth residents in grades 1 to 8. YEP! utilizes the Early Risers "Skills for Success" model to engage children and parents in the children's scholastic achievement, especially reading and math, as well as their social growth. YEP! operates during the school year and summer months, giving children a full year of support and enrichment activities.

The need is critical. It is worth noting that rates of homelessness among individuals in DC have decreased slightly since 2010, *yet rates of family homelessness have skyrocketed*, increasing more

than 60% in the same time. Children account for 60% of individuals in Washington's homeless families – and homelessness takes a heavy toll on the more than 4,000 children in our city's homeless families. According to the National Center on Family Homelessness: homeless children are sick four times more often than other children; have three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems; are four times more likely to show delayed development; and have twice the rate of learning disabilities as non-homeless children.

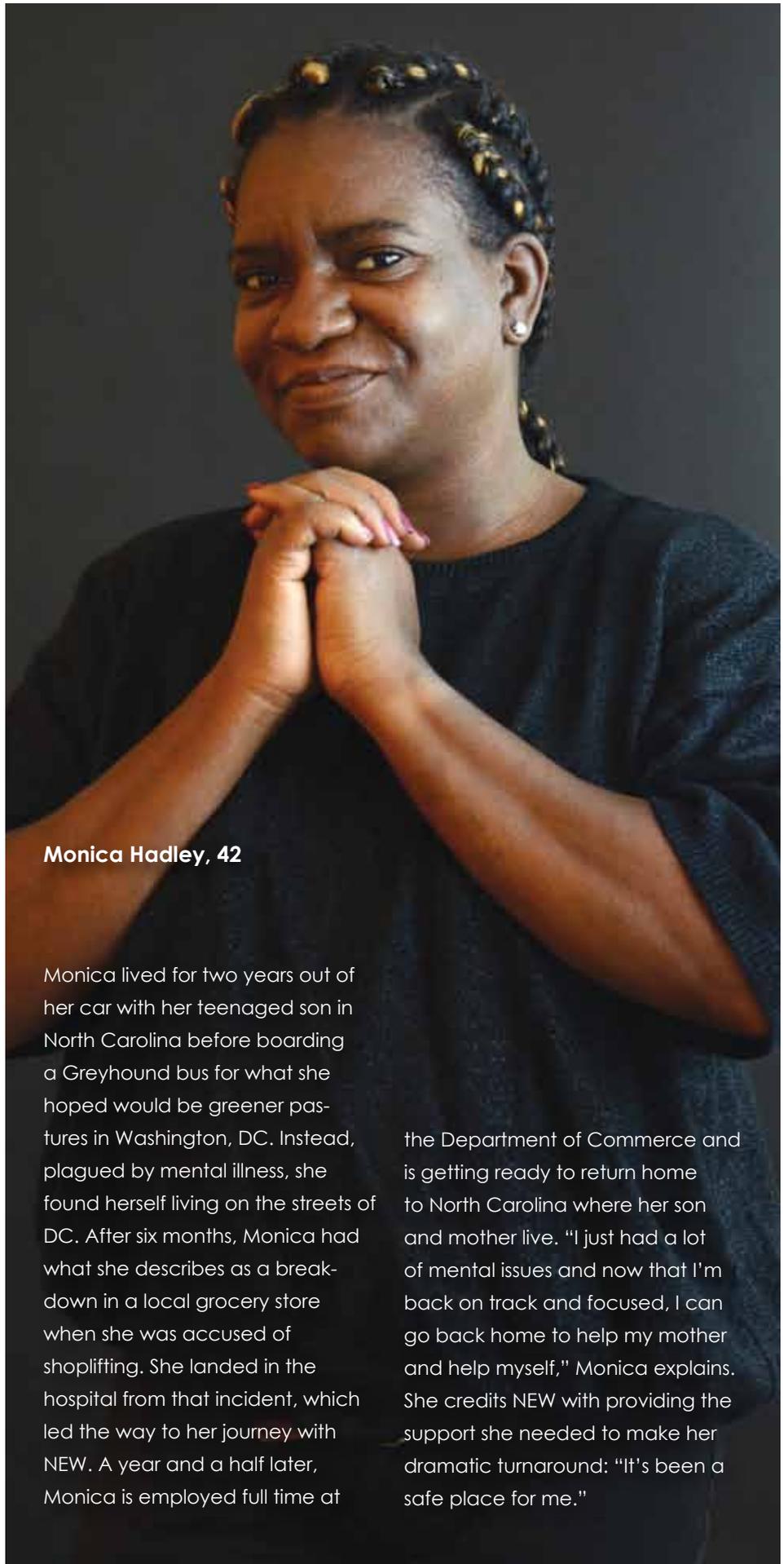
According to the National Center on Family Homelessness, although 85% of homeless children attend school regularly, among those in grades 3 through 12 who participated in state assessment tests, only 48% were proficient in reading and only 43% were proficient in math. One in three homeless children will repeat a grade.

We believe that making a lasting difference in the lives of homeless families and children starts with helping homeless mothers achieve stability and their children to achieve educational success.



- Our **New Transitions** program offers up to two years of group housing and intensive supportive services to 24 homeless women who are overcoming challenges such as addiction and mental illness.
- **New Generations** offers up to two years of apartment housing and family-focused supportive services to 15 women reunifying with their children after being separated by homelessness.
- **Shelter Plus Care** provides private apartments and highly individualized supportive services for an open-ended amount of time to 9 women who have a critical need for ongoing intensive case management and support for chronic needs.
- **New Horizons** provides private apartments and family-centered intensive services for an open-ended amount of time to 17 families, many of whom are recovering from domestic abuse.
- **New Hope** provides shared apartments and health and wellness-centered services for an open-ended amount of time to 10 homeless women living with HIV/ AIDS.
- **New Journeys** offers permanent supportive housing and support in a dorm-style setting for six women aged 55 and older, most of whom have chronic illness and have been without stable housing for many years.
- **Rachael's House** serves 17 women in apartments and a shared permanent, supportive home setting, supporting residents to reach employment and self-sufficiency goals.

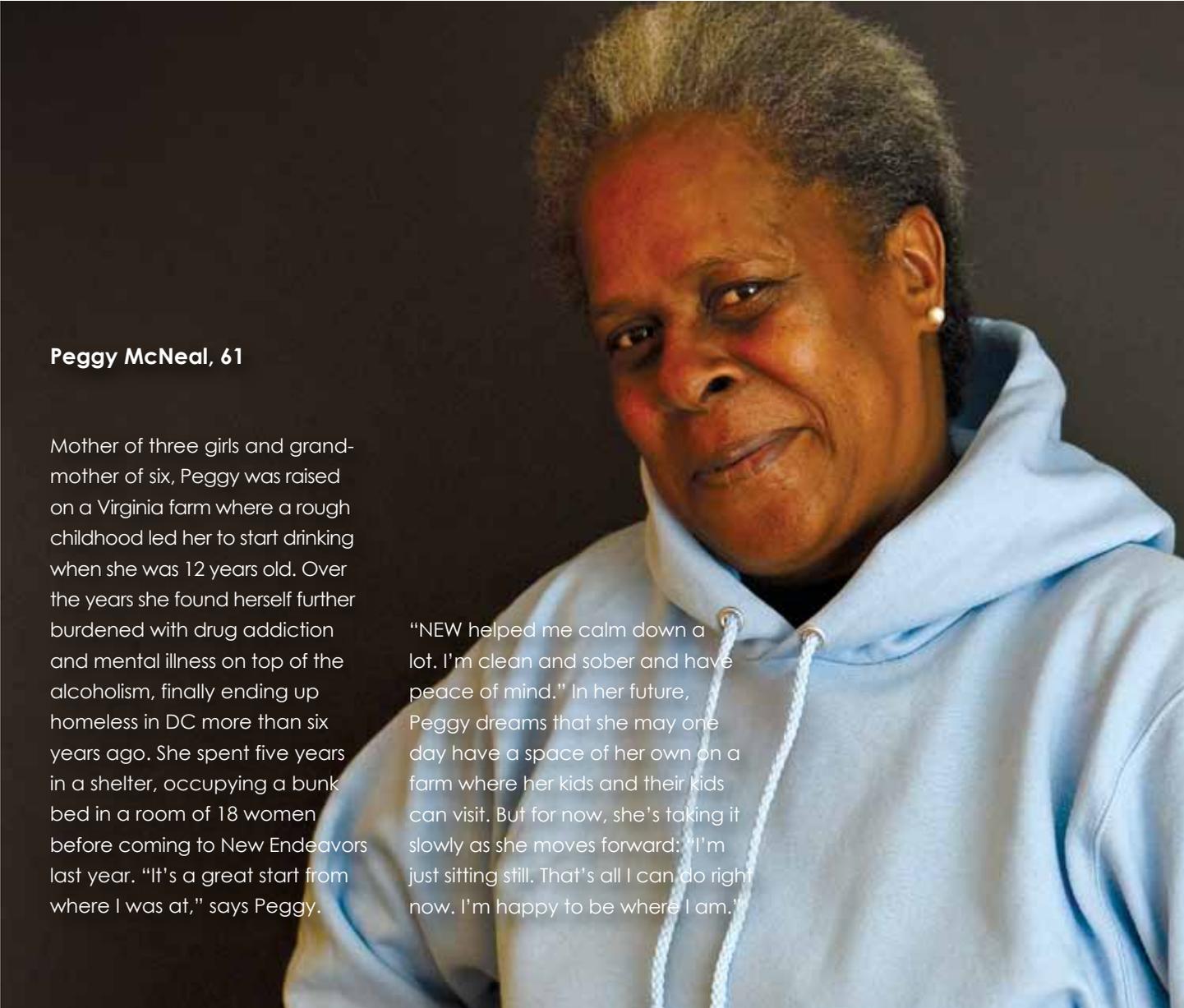
Helping Women Achieve Success: A woman begins charting a path to create new futures on day one of her stay at NEW, developing her own individual service plan with goals for becoming self-sufficient. NEW case managers, resident resource advocate, and certified addiction counselor work with her to achieve her personal goals.



Monica Hadley, 42

Monica lived for two years out of her car with her teenaged son in North Carolina before boarding a Greyhound bus for what she hoped would be greener pastures in Washington, DC. Instead, plagued by mental illness, she found herself living on the streets of DC. After six months, Monica had what she describes as a breakdown in a local grocery store when she was accused of shoplifting. She landed in the hospital from that incident, which led the way to her journey with NEW. A year and a half later, Monica is employed full time at

the Department of Commerce and is getting ready to return home to North Carolina where her son and mother live. "I just had a lot of mental issues and now that I'm back on track and focused, I can go back home to help my mother and help myself," Monica explains. She credits NEW with providing the support she needed to make her dramatic turnaround: "It's been a safe place for me."



Peggy McNeal, 61

Mother of three girls and grandmother of six, Peggy was raised on a Virginia farm where a rough childhood led her to start drinking when she was 12 years old. Over the years she found herself further burdened with drug addiction and mental illness on top of the alcoholism, finally ending up homeless in DC more than six years ago. She spent five years in a shelter, occupying a bunk bed in a room of 18 women before coming to New Endeavors last year. "It's a great start from where I was at," says Peggy.

"NEW helped me calm down a lot. I'm clean and sober and have peace of mind." In her future, Peggy dreams that she may one day have a space of her own on a farm where her kids and their kids can visit. But for now, she's taking it slowly as she moves forward: "I'm just sitting still. That's all I can do right now. I'm happy to be where I am."

NEW's personal development supports focus on: fostering self-sufficiency through an independent living skills program; education and job readiness; employment and career building. Through workshops and one-on-one sessions with NEW program staff, women pursue their goals and develop life management techniques, including budgeting time and finances. NEW encourages residents to improve their reading and math skills, and, if they do not have a high school diploma, to work towards taking the high school equivalency exam or enroll in a job training program. Residents who wish to pursue higher education receive assistance with loan and grant

applications, and choosing a school that best suits their needs.

NEW helps residents coordinate job training and employment searches. To foster long-term success, NEW focuses on career-oriented employment with advancement opportunities. NEW's resident resource advocate works with each woman to identify her job skills, update her resume, write cover letters, and practice interview situations. The residents receive employment referrals or, if they are already employed, help in advancing in their current position. NEW also provides an in-house computer lab where women can develop a resume and search for jobs and housing.

Success does not end when NEW residency ends; alumnae come back to visit, share their stories and report on their latest achievements. Many have continued their education, hold good jobs, are full-time parents to their children, and are active, engaged members of their communities. Often our alumnae return to NEW to share their success stories with residents and offer to play a mentoring role. A number of women, after years of improving their employment situations and saving their money, have become homeowners. NEW is privileged to have been a partner in every one of the victories of its residents and alumnae.

In 2014-15, our successes included:

- Providing housing with support services to 216 people, including 134 women and 82 children
- Graduating 86% of transitional residents to permanent housing
- Working closely with residents to improve job retention and employment stability, leading to increased earnings which averaged more than \$10.00 per hour - up 10% since 2010.
- Among our residents who are able to work, 80% secured jobs or enrolled in school. We also had 8 residents who enrolled in college courses.



Financial Snapshot

Audited Statement of Activities
Year ended June 30, 2015

2015

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE			
Contributions	\$ 163,050	\$ 115,000	\$ 278,050
Government grants	1,490,973	-	1,490,973
Investment (loss) income	(49)	-	(49)
Contributed services and materials	164,351	-	164,351
Special events	88,585	-	88,585
Other revenue	35,990	-	35,990
Net assets released from donor restrictions	64,748	(64,748)	-
Total revenue	2,007,648	50,252	2,057,900
EXPENSES			
Program Services	1,649,798	-	1,649,798
Supporting Services:			
General and administrative	297,913	-	297,913
Fundraising	76,205	-	76,205
Total supporting services	374,118	-	374,118
Total expenses	2,023,916	-	2,023,916
Changes in net assets	(16,268)	50,252	33,984
Net assets at beginning of year	384,403	107,771	492,174
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 368,135	\$ 158,023	\$ 526,158

Major Funders

The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
D.C. Department of Human Services
Community Foundation of the National Capital Region
Anonymous
Meyer Foundation
Cafritz Foundation
Anne and John Raffaelli
Jovid Foundation

Donors

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Mandy Sagar and Adrian Verheul
Saint Alban's Parish
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Theresa Scanlin
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