ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2017-2018
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Dear Friends,

Time and again, I am truly inspired by the resilience of the people served by HOCP programming. With a little help, these families are able to succeed and overcome the many obstacles they have encountered in their lives. Many are able to realize their dreams. Their hard work and long journeys are the embodiment of where potential meets opportunity.

In this report you will read inspiring stories of those who have faced barriers and seized the opportunity to reach their potential. You will see the great potential demonstrated by HOC youth and be moved by the journeys of individuals who overcame real obstacles to move closer towards self-sufficiency.

The successes of our customers inspire us to increase our efforts and push harder to support the life goals they hold for themselves and their families.

Hundreds of HOC youth excelled in robotics programs that ignited in them a burning interest to pursue STEM education and careers;

Formerly homeless families moved into stable, permanent housing that changed their life’s trajectory and the futures of their children;

Customers with disabilities received the extra support they needed to pursue their passions and accomplish great things!

We sincerely thank all of our supporters and partners – foundations, corporations, local government, caring individuals and dedicated volunteers – for helping individuals and families in our county access the opportunities they need to move towards their fullest potential.

We pledge to increase our efforts to help more children, families and individuals realize their goals and improve their lives. The needs are too great to be complacent. With your support, more children and families in Montgomery County can move from vulnerability to sustainability and success. We hope you will join us in expanding these opportunities for all those in need.

Sincerely,

Kenneth B. Tecler
Board of Directors, Chair
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

KENNETH B. TECLER
Chair
The Law Office of Kenneth B. Tecler, LLC
kbt@kbtlaw.net

VARUN DHAWAN
Treasurer
Controller, The Washington Center
varun.dhawan@twc.edu

MORGAN G. SMITH
Partner, Klein Hornig LLP
msmith@kleinhornig.com

KEENEISHA T. ROBERTS
Owner/ Artist, KTR Design Studios
keneishat@comcast.net

NICOLAS SEBASTIAN SERE PONCE DE LEON
Senior Associate, KPMG LLP
nsereponce@gmail.com

SALLY ROMAN
Former Chair of the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County, MD
SallyRoman@yahoo.com

SHAUNA SORRELLS
HOC Senior Staff Liaison
Chief Operating Officer, HOC
shauna.sorrells@hocmc.org
THANK YOU TO

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$50,000 +
Montgomery County Grants Programs

$40,000 +
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$15,000
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Sharon Fox
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John Lopez
Patrice Birdsong
Patrick Mattingly
Pedro Martins
Veronica Childers
Nickolai Sukharev
Parnis Khosrarev
Donna Downing
Vanvisa Sivali
John Vass
Eric Axelrod
Ruth Jorge

Generous In-kind Contributions from our Corporate Partners:
Starbucks
Auntie Annes Pretzels
MC MD Delta Alumnae Foundation, Inc.
Costco
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMUNITY PARTNERS (HOCP) FISCAL YEAR 2017

TOTAL INCOME
TOTAL REVENUE: $310,264.00

- Volunteer and In-Kind Contributions: $71,653.00
- Grant Funding: $53,371.00
- Contributions: $185,240.00

FISCAL YEAR 2017
FUNDING OUR MISSION

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMUNITY PARTNERS (HOCP) FISCAL YEAR 2017

TOTAL EXPENSES
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: $220,698.00

- General Program Costs: $184,416.00
- Supporting Services-General and Administrative: $36,282.00
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMUNITY PARTNERS (HOCP) FISCAL YEAR 2018

TOTAL INCOME
TOTAL REVENUE: $150,661.00

- Volunteer and In-Kind Contributions: $51,931.00
- Grant Funding: $58,705.00
- Contributions: $40,025.00

TOTAL EXPENSES
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: $110,303.00

- General Program Costs: $94,757.00
- Supporting Services - General and Administrative: $15,546.00
HOC and the Housing Opportunities Community Partners, Inc. (HOCP) hosted their first ever fundraising event in September 2016. The response from the community was overwhelming. The generous donations we received from individuals, partners, and others helped us to support programming that would maximize the impact of every dollar donated. In alignment with HOC’s priorities and the identified needs of HOC customers, HOCP approved the use of the funds donated at the last Gala for the following priorities:

- STEaM programs
- Adult Education/Workforce Development programs
- Senior Adult Health/Well-being programming
- Meeting emergency/individual requests for assistance

Read on to learn about the impact of your generosity

**Advanced Science Research Center at the City University of New York (CUNY-ASRC)**

HOC middle school aged youth traveled to CUNY-ASRC to learn about exciting educational opportunities and careers in STEM fields. This unique trip was the first time these students had visited NYC or a research laboratory. For many, it was the first time they considered pursuing STEM education.

Thanks to support from our generous donors, Community Partners helped inspire HOC youth to explore futures in STEM. At the CUNY-ASRC, the youth engaged in hands-on science experiments, toured the various laboratories and listened to an exciting lecture on nanoscience. Furthermore, their experience of NYC was not limited to the laboratories at CUNY. The kids also went on a walking tour of Harlem, toured the Apollo Theater and visited other famous sites in the city.

Subsequent to their experience, 75% of the students enrolled in afterschool STEM activities and all students demonstrated a greater interest in STEM subjects at school. The trip provided HOC youth with an invaluable experience that expanded their world view of and inspired them to pursue challenging STEM opportunities.
Media Production Summer Day Camp

Lights, Camera, Action! In the internet age, we sometimes take for granted how easily videos can be recorded and shared. However, it takes great knowledge and skill to produce a video that tells a compelling story.

In August 2018, HOC youth attended a two-week summer day camp that provided hands-on instruction in media production. The youth learned about all facets of filmmaking, including screenwriting, visualization, developing narrative, and the entire production and postproduction process. At the end of the two-week camp, each participant created their own documentary on a topic that was important to them. The films covered topics on the environment, social issues and current events. The kids felt empowered and gained a better understanding of the power of language and how to use technology effectively and responsibly to express themselves.

Chess Summer Day Camp

Checkmate! Twenty HOC middle school aged youth learned important problem solving skills, improved their critical thinking abilities, and strengthened their self-discipline by learning the fundamentals of chess. Through healthy competition at chess, youth gained the skills needed for success in the classroom and for healthy social interactions with their peers and adults.

Numerous scientific studies have shown that children who play chess have better concentration and memory, perform better in school with improved problem solving skills, and demonstrate improved reading skills. The kids learned strategies that helped them navigate a new game as well as their everyday lives. The 2018 Chess Summer Day Camp was the first of its kind at HOC. With help from donors, HOCP hopes to expand the program so that more youth can check out the game of chess and excel in school!
Financial scams come in many forms, including email phishing, phone scams and door-to-door gimmicks. Unfortunately, senior adults are at higher risk of falling victim to these nefarious schemes. To help HOC senior adults avoid potentially disastrous scams, HOCP and HOC teamed up to coordinate a regular schedule of monthly workshops that increase the financial literacy of some of our most vulnerable residents.

Arcola Towers and Forest Oak Towers senior residents attend regular workshops to learn about protecting their personal information, identifying scams, and improving their overall money management skills. Other important topics include family budgeting, healthy savings habits, effective use of banking tools and ways to improve one’s credit score. By providing regular educational sessions for these residents, we are able to help them hold on to their hard-earned dollars and ensure they remain safe and stably housed for the future.

On a case-by-case basis, Community Partners reviews and grants individual or emergency requests to customers who require a little extra assistance to reach their goals.

As a free-lance journalist, Dave used to travel the world. However, an unlikely accident left him completely paralyzed. After regaining some strength and adjusting to life as a quadriplegic, Dave emigrated with his family to the US where he lived with his brother until they lost their home.

“I never understood homelessness until we lost our housing,” Dave said. He said his spirit was broken until he and his family received housing assistance and case management from HOC. With permanent supportive housing in place, Dave felt a newfound confidence to continue his education. He enrolled at Montgomery College, but soon realized that he did not have the physical ability to use the books needed for class or write out his exams.

At that point, HOCP stepped in and purchased a laptop with adaptive equipment to help Dave be successful in college. With a few courses completed, Dave is on the way back to exploring his passions in journalism and realizing his potential.

**Special/Emergency Assistance**

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The Annual HOC School Supply Drive distributes back-to-school supplies to approximately 1,000 HOC youth each year. HOCP and HOC reach out to local companies, community groups and individuals throughout Montgomery County to collect backpacks, notebooks, folders, and other supplies. In late August, students receive the supplies at a “Back to School Fest” where games, activities and parent resources are also provided, including one free hour of “jump time” for the kids at Rockin’ Jump in Gaithersburg.

Although we receive many backpacks and other supplies through donations from Alpha Kappa Alpha (Xi Zeta Omega Chapter) and other organizations, Community Partners has provided $14,000 over the last two years to ensure that all the back-to-school needs of our youth were met before they returned to school.

Back-to-School Fest

Engineering Summer Day Camp

It's doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that kids love rockets. But we also know that many kids don't have access to resources and activities – like rocket kits and clubs – that let them explore aerospace engineering and other STEM subjects.

However, thanks to generous contributions to Community Partners, twenty elementary school aged children learned the engineering fundamentals to successfully build their own rockets at the Engineering Summer Day Camp. The kids completed a variety of engineering assignments, including demonstrations on how to design packages that protect the contents from damage when dropped to the ground.

All campers successfully completed their engineering assignments and reported an increased interest in participating in future STEM camps and other science-based extracurricular programs. The Engineering Summer Day Camp put these kids on a more focused trajectory to reaching greater heights in STEM.
KIDS’ ROBOTICS

Over the last two years we successfully conducted after school Kids’ STEM clubs and Kids’ STEM summer day camps, which brought robotics activities and instruction to more than 200 elementary to middle school aged children.

Access to “Out of School” learning experiences can play a prominent role in introducing low-income students to STEM projects and a pathway to a STEM career. After school programs encourage alternative ways of learning complex material related to math and science. The NRC study has shown that after school STEM program participants begin to think about themselves as science learners and develop identities as young people for whom science matters. These outcomes are critical to students’ development and future career formation.

STEM program outcomes demonstrate a strong interest and increased scientific and mathematic skills amongst students who participate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance Rate</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participants will successfully build a functional robot</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of the participants assembled and programmed functional robots. The robots were “tested” in friendly competition.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participants will report a great interest in STEM subjects</strong></td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre/Post surveys were filled with many positive comments. Participants of all ages answered a variety of questions that demonstrated their increased interest in STEM subjects.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participants will enroll in after-school STEM activities</strong></td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration forms confirm the enrollments in our after-school STEM programs at various HOC sites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our STEM program students work in pairs and learn about all of the aspects of robotics including construction, programming, and physics. After researching curriculum topics on introductory robotics, participants design and program a LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 or a WeDo 2.0 robot to solve missions on a special obstacle course.

Our youngest participants in grades 1-3 worked with WeDo 2.0 kits to create functioning cars and animals. Older participants in grades 4-8 built robots using Lego's Mindstorms EV3 kits to successfully execute the “Shark Tank” challenge from the FIRST robotics competition.

Tsigea participated in one of our first robotics summer day camps in 2015 as an elementary school student. Prior to joining the camp, he had no STEM experience beyond his science classes in school. After completing the camp his mother said, “Now that he did the camp he wants to become an engineer.” In October 2017, he participated in our West Point Mobile STEM Workshop, where he learned new robotics skills and became more interested in engineering. The proof was in his school report card, where he improved in all STEM-related subjects.

He went on to apply for the West Point STEM Workshop in Newburg, New York and was selected out of hundreds youth across the country. In May 2018, Tsigea attended this prestigious program on the campus of the United States Military Academy, West Point where he participated in three days of exercises that helped him develop team-building skills and learn to solve engineering challenges with fellow students.

Tsigea is now even more determined to pursue further STEM education. He says that these great opportunities “prepare me for college because if I learn more about STEM now, when I take it in college I will already have an understanding of what to do.”
THE HOUSING COUNSELING PLUS PROGRAM

HCPP

The Housing Counseling Plus Program (HCPP) helps low-income families and individuals meet their move-in costs as they transition out of homelessness and into stable permanent housing. Move-in costs, such as application fees, security deposits and utility connection costs are prohibitively high for those transitioning out of homelessness. By helping to offset these expenses, HCPP removes a major barrier and offers crucial assistance to bolster the other services provided to homeless individuals and families. Without this assistance, homeless individuals and families often cannot move into rental housing and are more likely to remain homeless.

HCPP is offered in conjunction with ongoing case management from HOC that helps further stabilize the household. Families receive assistance with finding medical insurance, meeting clothing and furniture needs, identifying mental health services and connecting to workforce development programs and employment. Through HCPP's housing-first model, a tailored portfolio of supportive services is composed to meet the various needs of the families transitioning from homelessness. These services support HOC residents' ability to maintain their housing for the long-term.

IMPACT SINCE 2008: MORE THAN 350 HOMELESS FAMILIES HOUSED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY2017 48 households assisted</th>
<th>FY2018 29 households assisted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee</td>
<td>1.05%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holding Fee</td>
<td>2.20%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beds/Box springs</td>
<td>65.71%</td>
<td>93.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Deposit</td>
<td>22.70%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Connection</td>
<td>5.97%</td>
<td>1.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moving Expenses</td>
<td>2.37%</td>
<td>5.36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Just a few years ago all was fine with Isabella and her two young children. However, her physical health began to deteriorate, and consequently her ability to provide for herself and her family suffered. The medical bills grew, she lost her job, and soon thereafter she and her children were homeless.

Isabella was referred to HOC for permanent supportive housing and, thanks to HOCP's Housing Counseling Plus Program (HCPP), Isabella was provided with the beds, box springs and mattresses for herself and her children. Without these resources, Isabella would not have been able to be reunited with her children. HCPP not only gave Isabella and the children a soft place to sleep, but helped to make it possible for the family to stay together. For Isabella and most families helped by HCPP, a mattress gives them much more than just a good night's sleep!
Thank you, Housing Opportunities Commission, for your continued support and dedication to our local community. Your commitment and contributions have made this an even better place to call home.

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EYA is thrilled to partner with HOC in the delivery of The Lindley, an innovative example of mixed-income housing and public-private partnership. We look forward to our continued collaboration.
THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS & PARTNERS

The Neighborhoods of

life within walking distance

Housing Opportunities Commission
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS & PARTNERS
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FUNDERS & PARTNERS
HOCP
MISSION

Housing Opportunities Community Partners (HOCP) strives to help low-income families, living in Montgomery County's subsidized housing, to improve their quality of life, equip them to reach a higher level of self-sufficiency and to provide them the resources needed to break out of the cycle of poverty.