



Helping Opportunity Youth Achieve
Housing, Job, and Economic Stability



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To all of our *Partners*

2020 has brought unprecedented change to our organization with the impacts of COVID, Social Justice Movement and spikes in DC Crime.

We've adjusted our services to meet the new needs moving forward with resiliency and shared responsibility. Our youth need us more than ever.

Many people ask why nearly 1,000 young people walk through our front door each year. Most arrive due to no fault of their own. Too often, I hear "My living arrangements are too dangerous. My family doesn't support my gender or sexual orientation. I simply can't afford housing. I aged out of foster care with nowhere to turn." Despite each young person's circumstances, our staff of over 70 dedicated "Life Changers" accept young people with an **open door and welcoming arms** - helping youth navigate across The Bridge to Stability.

Our passion is creating solutions for youth that help them achieve **economic, job, and housing stability**. Last year we were able to increase our housing capacity by 22% allowing to give safe housing to over 140 youth and their children each night. We added an innovative Hospitality Institute and supported 31 youth going off to college.

Your support provides us with the opportunity to impact the lives of our young people.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff we ask that you continue supporting our mission. Stand with us as we transform the lives of the incredible young people who walk through the doors of Covenant House Greater Washington achieve stability.



WHO WE ARE

Since 1995, Covenant House Greater Washington (CHGW) has served as a leading non-profit in Greater Washington helping youth ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness, disconnection, and exploitation achieve stability.



OUR PURPOSE

We provide youth with safe haven, care, and the supportive services needed to achieve housing, job, and economic stability.



THE NEED

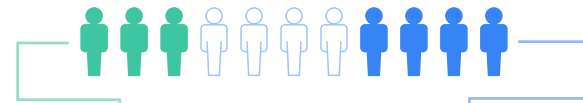
Every night across America thousands of young people go to sleep without the safety and support of a home or family. In DC, MD, and VA, 33% of CHGW youth surveyed had been approached by a trafficker their first night on the street.

The Stats

COVID IMPACT IN 2020

As of November 13, 27 youth and 30 staff have tested positive and we are grateful all have recovered.

3.5M YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 18 TO 25 EXPERIENCE A FORM OF HOMELESSNESS OVER A COURSE OF ONE YEAR.



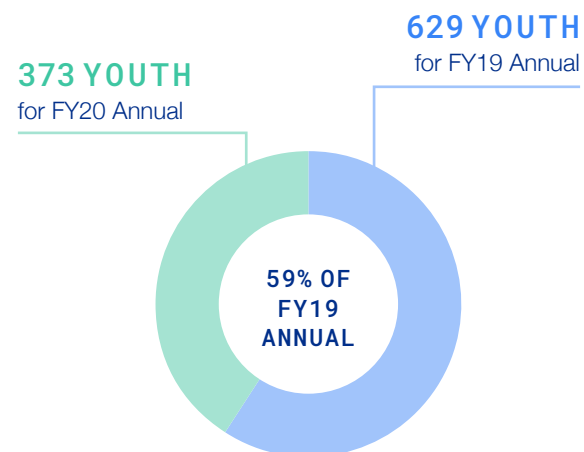
33% OF YOUTH

in DC, were approached for sex or by a trafficker their first night on the street

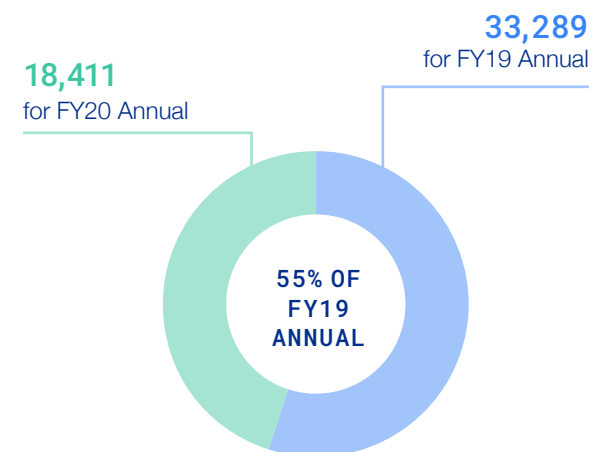
40% OF YOUTH

who are experiencing homelessness identify LGBTQ, according to Chapin Hall

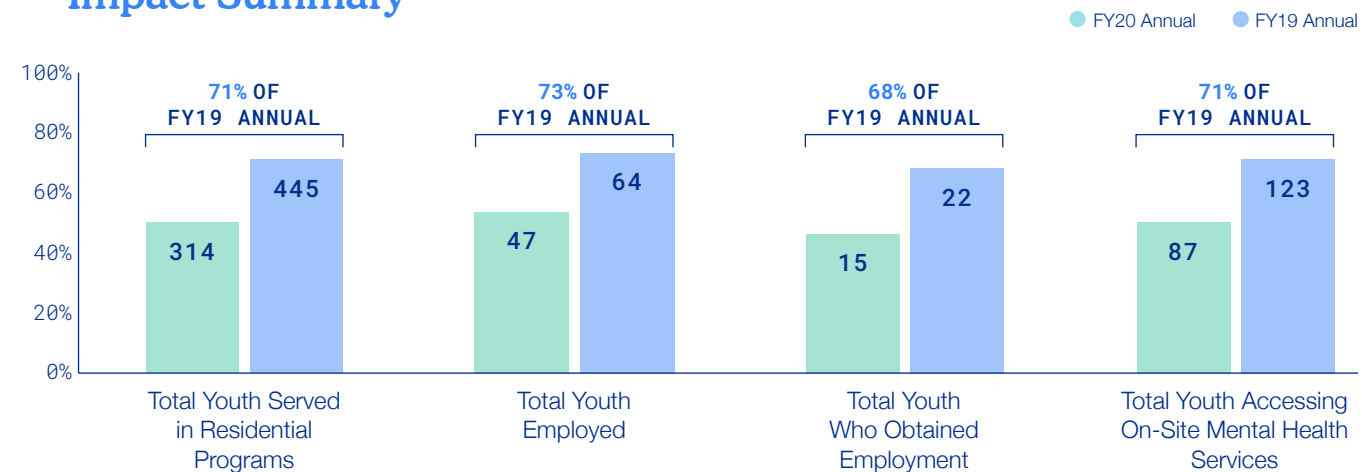
Total Youth Reached



Total Nights of Housing



Impact Summary



Youth Stories



and our
Programs



MEET TERRENCE

Well, where can I start off? I grew up living a tough life.

I was born in Norfolk, Virginia and moved to D.C. after my grandmother died. I was 3 years old. When we moved here things weren't sweet at all. My mother started using drugs (crack) and our life just came tumbling down. Moving from place to place, shelter to family's houses; things just weren't right. Then my mother found a place in northeast D.C., a place called Lincoln Heights. That's when she started using heavy. She started selling our things, such as TVs and things of that sort until she said enough is enough and

admitted herself into rehab. That's when I moved in with my cousin in Baltimore. Things there weren't stable. I was sent to an aunt's house where I stayed a year. I felt like a bastard child, something like a male Cinderella. After my mom's got out rehab successfully, we moved to southeast D.C. My mother found it hard to take care of me, my sister and her two kids, so she started using again. My sister would leave her two children with my mother for days at a time. My mom was stuck with a terrible dilemma—to take care of us or work. So she decided to call foster care on my sister's kids and had them taken away. It was pretty hard on my mom and me trying to cope with it, but she had to do what she had to do. To this day my sister hasn't forgiven my mother. With my mom's using and not having a job, she and I were in the same boat again going from house to house. We found another apartment, but our relationship was wearing down. I finally said enough was enough and I ran away to live with my aunt in Maryland. She really didn't want me there, but I was family and she took me in. About that time I started using drugs (weed) to ease my mind. Soon, I was just cold abusing it, smoking all day every day. School wasn't working for me so I decided to go to Job Corp. It was an experience I will never forget.

I was on my own at the tender age of 17, still smoking and even selling weed. I spent a year in Job Corps until I got kicked out because of the weed, but I was able to complete most of my GED work and I earned a certificate in culinary arts as a prep cook. I left Job Corp and went to live with my sister in D.C. That was one of the roughest times of my life. My sister was getting benefits for me (money), but all I had was a cot on the floor and I had to leave on the weekends. I got fed up with that and moved in with my godfather. He was a terrible drunk. One day the police ran into our house because of all the activity going on—smoking, drinking, etc. They locked up everybody, including me. After all the stealing, smoking weed, and other things I had done, I came to the conclusion my life was messed up; so I devoted myself to God and things started looking better. When I was released from jail I went to the shelter to start over. I went to the 801 M Street Shelter. I was truly blessed by the people of Covenant House when they came and said they had a place for me. They took me to the crisis center and I was like “thank you God for this salvation.” Since then I have done more than ever before to work on getting my life back on track and my relationship with my family is growing.

Residential Programs

Covenant House Greater Washington provides immediate safe housing to youth experiencing homelessness. The housing program consist of seven housing communities; providing safe housing to over 140 youth and their children on any given night.

Emergency Housing program provide immediate safe housing across three housing programs. The Sanctuary, is our Respite Program that provides 20 immediate beds for young people. Safe Haven, our 36 bed 90-day program and Elizabeth's House a unique housing program tailored for pregnant and parenting young moms with a goal of reunification. **Transitional Housing** is a 18-24 month program offered at three housing locations that allow young people to build their foundation toward reaching stability. As a resident, youth will obtain employment, workforce readiness, education, and build savings; while, learning personal finance and household management skills. **Supportive Housing** provides long-term housing to youth with an identifiable disability. This program gives young people the extra support and structure needed to maintain a positive and healthy lifestyle.

Career Pathways

OUTCOMES

- ♥ Last year Career Pathways served 282 youth.
- ♥ 80% of youth in transitional housing are employed.
- ♥ Youth maintained a job for an avg. of 148 days.
- ♥ Sent over 31 youth to college or trade program.

Career Pathways offers a robust workforce readiness and educational program for both our housing residents and community youth looking to achieve their dreams. Each plan is individually tailored to help that young person reach stability. The experience and dedication of our teachers and volunteers, help youth develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence for educational, post educational, and workforce readiness achievement. The **Education Preparation Program** provides Adult Basic Education and GED/ high school diploma preparation. In FY2016, 30% of the youth in DC obtained their GED from CHGW.

Covenant House Washington's Job Career Readiness Center (JCRC) teaches young people how to navigate in the professional world. The youth go through CHGW's workforce readiness training where they engage in mock interviews, resume building, and soft skills development. The **Hospitality Institute** is an innovative six-week course created to help young people obtain the certifications and training they need to successfully obtain employment in hospitality, one of the fastest growing industries in the Greater Washington Region.

MEET MICHELE

I can speak first-hand about the trials and tribulations of being homeless.

I came to Covenant House Washington two years ago. I became homeless due to domestic violence with my boyfriend. I needed to get away and find a safer place to live. Unfortunately, in escaping my pain, I found myself homeless. I was again afraid – not as much as before, but still afraid. Afraid of daily living...how was I going to get by? How was I going to eat? Where was I going to sleep? I had all these dreams about being successful and now had nothing. I was terrified; I didn't know how I was going to survive or who to turn to. Then I found Covenant House. When I first arrived, I was scared and confused. But the dedicated staff comforted my fears and made me feel at home. The staff always keeps me motivated and determined...determined to put my life back on track. I now feel as if I have a new lease on life – and for that I am very thankful. My daughter and I now live in a Covenant House supported apartment where I can begin bettering our lives, once and for all. Last June, I



received my Certified Nursing Assistance License and have begun classes at Montgomery College pursuing my studies in Medical Diagnostic Sonography. Currently, I work at the DC Department of Transportation. Covenant House has always been more than just a homeless shelter for youth, it has been a place where young people can come and pick up the pieces of their lives and start to rebuild on a foundation of independence and self-respect. For that, I will always be grateful. Since then I have done more than ever before to work on getting my life back on track and my relationship with my family is growing.

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MEET TIFFANY

My name is Tiffany, but my family and friends call me Tiff.

This is my son, RJ. I am 22 and I'm at Covenant House because I was evicted from my home. My old job let me go due to the fact they didn't have maternity leave; they waited till

my ninth month of pregnancy to tell me. Because of that I was unable to pay my rent, which caused me and my child to become homeless.

Being homeless made me very depressed. I even felt like I was less than a mother because I couldn't provide shelter for my son. Covenant House helped uplift my spirit and made me feel like I had a second chance. Being on the streets can either break

you or make you humble yourself toward life. If you are young and on the streets, I would tell you to pray and don't give up hope because you can only go up when you are down. To the young adults not on the streets, make wise decisions in life so you can avoid being on the streets—it's not fun and life will be harder on you.

I highly recommend Covenant House to other young troubled youth because I really think this place can put you back on the right track to a better life. Here you learn discipline and you get to clear your mind so you can think about your goals and where you are going. My goal is to find a career job with health benefits that can provide me and RJ a consistent, secure lifestyle. To reach my goals, I am going to challenge myself to do things I never thought I could do. I'm going to push myself forward and never look back. They had a place for me. They took me to the crisis center and I was like "thank you God for this salvation." Since then I have done more than ever before to work on getting my life back on track and my relationship with my family is growing.

Supportive Services

OUTCOMES

♥ Nearly, 1000 youth walk through our doors seeking supportive services.

♥ We serve over 72,000 meals each year.

♥ 85 youth received mental health support.

Support Services help to eliminate barriers preventing our youth from achieving stability. We provide meals, showers, and access to washer/dryer. Once youth are safe and fed, they are better equipped to begin their journey to stability.

Case Management and Mental Health Support is an essential component of our residential and educational programming. Young people work with case managers to identify their strengths and challenges while developing and implementing plans personally tailored for the individual success of each young person.

Dove Store allows youth to select new and gently used clothing articles that accommodate job interviews and everyday wear in a boutique store setting.

Food Pantry and Meals supports residential and community youth supplementing their nutritional needs.

Child Development Center is a Nationally Accredited Gold-Tiered on-site center, providing Pre-K readiness to children ages 6-weeks to three-years-old. This program provides support to residential and community parents.

Get Involved

♥ DONATIONS

We rely on your financial donations to make our work possible. Any donation helps to make a difference. For examples, \$1,000 provides meals for one week, \$100 helps youth with transportation to work or school, \$50 provides a student with job assessment and training materials, and \$25 provides washcloths and hygiene supplies to one young person.

♥ PLANNED GIVING

Planned Giving continues your legacy of servitude when you appoint us in your beneficiary of your 401k or IRA Retirement plan, donate stocks and bonds, or include us in your annual tax-deductible contribution.

♥ AMAZON

If you're an Amazon shopper, please select **Covenant House Washington** as your charity of choice on AmazonSmile. A portion of your everyday shopping will be donated to us!

♥ VOLUNTEER

Volunteers make a real difference in the world of Covenant House! With many different ways to support, we have several opportunities to accommodate your schedule and wishes. Volunteer options include hosting a drive, serving meals, organizing/beautification, mentoring, and more!

♥ NIGHT OF STARS BENEFIT GALA

The Night of Stars Benefit Gala celebrates 23 years of opening doors and transforming lives of youth who have experienced homelessness, disconnection, and exploitation. This extravaganza highlights triumphs of our youth and awards change agents immersed in moving the needle to end youth homelessness. You will have the opportunity to experience nationally known entertainment, food, and performances by our youth. Get tickets or become a sponsor and make an impact in helping our youth achieve stability.

Sleep Out



Join the movement with **Sleep Out Executive Edition (SOEE)** or **Sleep Out America (SOA)**, where for one night, you can sleep outside to raise funding for youth experiencing homelessness. For SOA you make the choice to Sleep Out at your church, office, in your backyard. SOEE challenges C-level Executives to Sleep Out on-site to raise essential funding for the programs and services we provide our young people.

Sleep Out takes place across the country the Thursday and Friday before Thanksgiving.

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Highlights and Media

Below, we outline some of the pandemic's impact on the youth we serve, our agency-wide response, and our challenges and successes in the short-term.

- Implementing astringent emergency protocols for administrative and emergency staff.
- Revising our intake processes to mirror CDC protocols on questions to ask at intake as well as temperature checks.
- Our workforce development staff are providing virtual and in-person (with appropriate social distancing) education and employment services. Many of our youth have been laid off—roughly 50% of our employed youth lost their jobs over the last month. Our staff is working closely with employment partners find alternate employment for these youth.
- Re-opened Safe Haven at Mellon Street- a 30-bed 90-day transitional living facility, bringing our total capacity to 90 beds, which makes us the largest youth provider by bed count in the DC homelessness system.
- Hired new Director of HR and Administration, Darren Cook, who immediately began to create HR infrastructure and policies which did not exist.
- Re-organized Residential and Programmatic staffing structure to maximize staffing at residential facilities
- Advocated for and received hazard pay for frontline staff and additional funding of \$60,000 from the DC Department of Human Services to support increased costs for COVID-19.
- Secured funding from Payroll Protection Program (PPP) as a low interest loan where we are on track to have all of the loan converted to a grant.
- Due to COVID-19, modified the 25th Anniversary Gala to a virtual platform, which will be a marvelous event showcasing our 25 years of service to youth on June 18th!
- Right- sized all grants from the DC Department of Human Services to support services for youth experiencing homelessness. Our anticipated grants for FY21 total \$2.5 million.
- Right-sized FY20 organizational budget to reforecast a small surplus of over \$100k as opposed to a \$100k deficit.

♥ NEWS 4 YOUR SUNDAY: COVENANT HOUSE

Homeless Black and brown youth are particularly vulnerable during the pandemic and this time of racial inequality. News4's Pat Lawson Muse spoke with Covenant House Greater Washington CEO Angela Jones-Hakley and youth advisor Victoria Calloway.



♥ 25TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL GALA

Watch Covenant House Greater Washington's 25th Anniversary Virtual Gala

♥ 2020 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Watch Covenant House Greater Washington's 2020 Virtual Town Hall Panel Discussion

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