



December 23, 2020

Ms. Ashley Klick
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
3513 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Ms. Klick,

On behalf of Hope and a Home, I would like to extend our gratitude for generous \$10,000 grant provided by the Holy Trinity Catholic Church's Social Justice Ministry. Your support and enduring generosity have allowed Hope and a Home to fulfill its mission of empowering low-income families with children in D.C. to create stable homes of their own and to make lasting changes in their lives.

With support from the Holy Trinity Parish, Hope and a Home served 226 individuals (62 families) in FY2020 across its core programs: Phase One: Transitional Housing, Phase Two: Independent Housing, and the Grace Dickerson Higher Education, as well as its new Mary Jo Schumacher Food Security program that was introduced this past Spring. Hope and a Home is proud to share the following accomplishments and successes of its programming during the past fiscal year:

- 21 families in Phase One: Transitional Housing participated in at least one group and one-on-one financial literacy and housing counseling sessions.
- 20 Phase One: Transitional housing parents were employed, however, eight parents lost their jobs due to COVID-19. Family Workers are working with parents who were laid off as a result of COVID-19 to ensure families remain financially stable, and are able to find other employment opportunities.
- 21 families worked with Hope and a Home's Family Worker Staff to develop monthly budgets and made consistent, monthly payments to their rent on-time.
- Six families were able to pay down their debts and improve credit scores
- Three families successfully graduated into Phase Two, where they obtained stable, independent housing.
- 100% of the 43 families who are currently engaged in Phase Two: Independent Housing have retained independent housing
- During the 2019-2020 school year, Hope and a Home served 120 students through GDHE programming
- In Spring 2020, Hope and a Home had three students graduate high school and two students graduate college, and
- Two Hope and a Home adults were enrolled at Excel Academy and three others attended programs where they earned an Associate's Degree, a CDA license, and an MBA.

Program Updates

Like many nonprofits, COVID-19 has presented challenges for Hope and a Home and its participants. The pandemic poses disproportionate risks to Hope and a Home's families, as many are just beginning to build a pathway towards financial stability. Support from long-term partners such as Holy Trinity Parish played an instrumental role in adjusting Hope and a Home's services to meet the

needs of families while remaining committed to its core programming. In March 2020, Hope and a Home invested in Microsoft Teams software that allows staff to virtually access office files, efficiently communicate with one another, and provide regular virtual check-ins with Hope and a Home's families. Case management check-ins are critical, as most of Hope and a Home's families are experiencing unexpected financial losses that have the potential to be devastating.

Holy Trinity's increased support during COVID-19 was critical, as it allowed Hope and a Home to adapt its Education services to support children and their families during 'Distance Learning'. With increased support, Hope and a Home was able to purchase laptops, and install wireless hotspots and other technology systems so students could access their online schoolwork. Leveraging Hope and a Home's new software, Education staff virtually met with children and their parents to help with school assignments, provide technical support as families navigate DCPS' online curriculum, and identify additional educational and developmental supports that students may need. As DCPS schools will remain online for the foreseeable future, Hope and a Home staff are working tirelessly with families to make sure students have the necessary equipment, supplies, and support to access and participate in their online learning.

With the support of Holy Trinity Parish, Hope and a Home was able to launch a formal tutoring program, where Hope and a Home matched students of all ages with an individual tutor who is supporting their academic goals. Being able to provide this personalized, one-to-one academic support is particularly impactful for students, who are navigating extreme circumstances.

Support from Holy Trinity Parish has also been critical to Hope and a Home's new Mary Jo Schumacher Food Security Program. This program delivers groceries such as fresh produce, milk, eggs, cereal, bread and meat to Phase One and Phase Two families twice a month. Holy Trinity volunteers have been tremendously helpful, bringing food, helping sort food for families, and providing completely contactless home food deliveries. Hope and a Home acquired a freezer and a refrigerator and is working with local wholesalers and other organizations to develop long-term distribution relationships and find storage opportunities. Due to the overwhelming need, Hope and a Home has transitioned this program into its general services, and will be continuing its deliveries for the foreseeable future.

This incredible level of volunteer activity has been part of a pattern of support from the Holy Trinity congregation. Hope and a Home appreciates Holy Trinity volunteers helping facilitate online workshops, connect restaurants to our families to provide hot meals, support Thanksgiving and Holiday gift baskets, and donate to the annual coat drive.

Summary

Hope and a Home believes that all families in D.C. should have access to stable, affordable housing and comprehensive education, regardless of background or geographic region. Support from partners, such as the Holy Trinity Parish is instrumental in making this vision a reality for families in D.C. Hope and a Home is grateful for the support of the Holy Trinity Parish, and looks forward to opportunities to continue its partnership and continue impacting families and children in D.C.

Respectfully,



Lynn C. French
Executive Director