



Reentry Housing: Supporting Men and Women Choosing to Improve Themselves and Their Communities

The Challenge for Those Seeking a Better Life

Men and women seeking to rebuild their lives after incarceration face significant challenges. Key among them is finding a supportive community and securing affordable housing, which is especially difficult in DC – a city that has lost half of its low-cost rental units since 2000. The inability to find suitable housing contributes to an all-too-common cycle of incarceration, homelessness, and living in shelters.

A Solution: Jubilee's Reentry Housing

A Hand Up

Jubilee's Reentry Housing Initiative provides affordable supportive housing and wrap-around services for men and women who are proactively choosing to rebuild their lives in a supportive, drug- and alcohol-free community. Jubilee operates two reentry homes, one at 2720 Ontario Road, NW, and the other at 2448 18th Street, NW. The Ontario Road home serves up to ten women and the 18th Street home serves up to ten men; both welcome those living with HIV/AIDS.

Men and women reentering the community have the opportunity to apply for our program prior to release and the resident selection process is rigorous. This program is for people who wish to live drug and alcohol free and most residents will have employment. The length of stay is about one year, and after successful completion, residents will be eligible to move into Jubilee Housing apartments elsewhere in the neighborhood.

A Strong Framework of Support

Newly renovated and providing residents with a sense of pride about where they live, the two homes offer a web of professional and peer support to help residents develop and maintain the connections, skills, and habits they will need in order to remain in the workforce and establish their own households. Each of the two homes has a live-in resident manager to ensure compliance with program guidelines, which include one-on-one meetings with case managers and counselors, regular house chores, a weekly house meeting, and an evening curfew.

Jubilee: 40 Years of Affordable Housing in Adams Morgan

Jubilee Housing has been a part of the Adams Morgan community since 1973, playing a central role in ensuring that Adams Morgan remains a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant neighborhood. A faith-based non-profit organization, Jubilee Housing operates apartment buildings in Adams Morgan that provide affordable housing and supportive services to more than 700 economically disadvantaged individuals and families, making it possible for members of our community to become their best selves.

Strong Partnership and Support from the District

Three District government agencies – the Department of Housing and Economic Development, the Department of Health through its “Housing Opportunities for People with HIV/AIDS” (HOPWA) program, and the Justice Grants Administration – have vetted and provided financial support for these residences. Their support reflects the great need for housing for these men and women in our community and validates Jubilee’s sound program design.

Current Licensing

Jubilee renovated the two properties as boarding houses by matter of right and with support from the ANC commissioners in both Single Member Districts. The Ontario Road property has been a group home for many years and the 18th Street property sat empty and derelict for nearly a decade. Construction was completed in September 2013 and January 2014, respectively. Each residence is currently operating within the guidelines for a boarding house and provides housing and supportive services.

Licensing Limits Ability to Serve Those in Need

The demand for housing and services for returning men and women includes a large number of people who are not eligible for occupancy in these two homes under their current licensure. Most notably, returning men and women who are on court-supervised release and those who committed felonies are not currently eligible for residency. As result, we have had difficulty filling our houses to capacity, while leaving a large number of otherwise deserving candidates ineligible for services.

Permits to Become Adult Rehabilitation Homes Key to Success

In order to serve the entire returning community, Jubilee needs a special exception from the DC Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) to permit the houses to become Adult Rehabilitation Homes. An Adult Rehabilitation Home is licensed to assist people who have a common desire for supports such as treatment, rehabilitation or other similar assistance.

The properties meet all of the technical merits provided for in DC law. Given Jubilee’s solid 40-year track record, sound program design, and partnership with several District agencies, this request exceeds the standards identified in the code and makes the request for special exception particularly compelling.

Our Request to Adams Morgan Community

Jubilee Housing seeks neighborhood/ANC support for a special exception from the BZA to permit the two housing facilities (2720 Ontario Road and 2448 18th Street) to become Adult Rehabilitation Homes.