

Our Mission

The mission of Miriam's House is to provide a dynamic residential community for women living with HIV disease that empowers recovery from homelessness, disease and addictions in an environment of compassion, integrity, and accountability.



Miriam's House

Our Vision

Miriam's House envisions a supportive, non-discriminatory world where HIV/AIDS is treated as any other chronic illness, and women living with the disease are fully integrated partners in shaping a more compassionate, life-affirming community.

The community at Miriam's House

We provide a healthy environment for recovery and growth.

- A compassionate, forgiving community.
- A safe, secure, comfortable home.
- Professional, full-time staff, including live-in staff.
- Community events, parties, outings.

The program at Miriam's House

Our program responds to the varied needs of each individual resident, emphasizing the whole person/whole spirit.

In-house services:

- social services
- secondary medical care
- help with activities of daily living
- support groups
- addictions counseling
- nutrition and diet counseling

Linkages to community services:

- therapy - including grief/loss, mental health counseling and support services
- professional hospice care
- primary medical care
- transportation
- HIV/AIDS education and support
- children's programs and day care
- parenting education
- adult day programs

Our Values

Miriam's House strives for a compassionate and respectful atmosphere that embraces spirituality, and promotes harmony and self-renewal. The four core values of this atmosphere are:

COMPASSION

Miriam's House embodies compassion in word and action through loving respect for all persons and commitment to a flexible, forgiving program.

EXCELLENCE

Miriam's House challenges itself to rise to excellence: in performance; in willingness to learn, change and improve; and in the best of service to our residents.

INTEGRITY

Miriam's House functions with integrity by emphasizing transparency, mutual accountability, and intentional communication.

RECOVERY

Miriam's House is rooted in recovery by building partnerships that promote healthful practices designed to effect transformation at the personal and organizational levels.

How can you help Miriam's House?

Financial Gifts

- Contact the Development Director to have your name placed on our *mailing list*
- Make a special *donation*
- Commit to a *monthly pledge*
- Include Miriam's House in your *planned giving*
- Consider making a no- or low-interest *loan*
- Offer a gift of *stock*

Develop Friendships

- *Send names* of potential friends and donors to the Development Director
- Help with our *anniversary concert* in March: publicity, sponsorship, guest list, etc.
- Walk, find a sponsor and/or contribute to Miriam's House for the Fannie Mae *Help the Homeless Walk* in November
- *Volunteer*: apply for the Board of Directors or a committee; tutor a G.E.D. candidate; teach a skill to residents; garden and do yard work.

**Please contact Tim Fretz,
Development Director:**

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Miriam's House Timeline

Development: 1992 to 1996

- 1992: Joseph's House hires Carol Marsh to create a community for women living with HIV/AIDS.
- 1993-94: We obtain site control of the property in northwest D.C.
- 1995-96: Architect's plans completed; final \$210,000 raised in 2.5 months. Renovation begins in May '95 and completed in 7 months.

*First two residents move in:
February 29, 1996.*

A Home: 1996 to present

- 1996: We accompany two residents through their deaths even as other residents gain health – we create a transitional program.
- 1997: Miriam's House is incorporated. We slowly learn to live with the constant intensity of illness and death, addictions and recovery, struggle and hope.
- 1998: 501c(3) status is granted. We continually refine our program to achieve even more compassionate understanding for the physical, emotional, spiritual and mental health issues of the residents.
- 1999 - 2002: The staff works to create a team that embraces loving forgiveness and accountability.
- 2003: Washington Post Excellence in Non-Profit Management Award.
- 2004 – present: Our program, *Living our Values*, emphasizes our core values – compassion, excellence, integrity, recovery – and focuses us on serving the residents as they deserve to be served.

Why is our work important?

- Miriam's House provides a home, a loving community, and a continuum of services for its residents.
- For the rest of us, it provides a constant reminder of the value of every single life, and of our own humanness.

An award-winning organization

- Miriam's House competed against 60 other area organizations to win the 2003 *Washington Post Excellence in Non-profit Management Award*.

How residents feel about Miriam's House

"It's a strong, helpful house. Supportive environment."

"It's the people who make the difference. The support is there. Whatever you need."

"They are there when you need to talk. They are also willing to learn themselves."

Please contact us:

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CFC# 97700



Miriam's House

- *Compassion*
- *Excellence*
- *Integrity*
- *Recovery*