Avoiding Shelter ➔ Finding a HOME

For families, staying in a shelter can have lifelong negative impacts on the physical and emotional well-being of adults and children. In New York City, housing a family in shelter is also very expensive — costing over $62,000 annually. With domestic violence a leading cause of family homelessness, New Destiny created HousingLink to help domestic violence survivors and their children avoid shelter and secure safe, affordable housing.

HousingLink’s one-on-one assistance, education and partnerships with landlords address the challenges that low-income domestic violence survivors face in finding safe, affordable housing in New York City, where the complications of domestic violence, such as poor credit or housing court actions, puts them at a disadvantage. As one program partner says: “…the thing that’s so important about [HousingLink] is it’s the only housing program we can refer to that will take clients through the process of placing them into an apartment.”

In just over three years, HousingLink has connected 69 families to affordable housing. An independent evaluation of the program has found that HousingLink is “a needed, cost-effective and sustainable resource for providing housing and housing information to domestic violence survivors. Retention has been 100 percent, with almost one-quarter in their homes for three years… We strongly recommend that HousingLink continue and be funded at an adequate level.”

Supporting Families

If I were a Superhero; What If…; Red Light, Green Light… A New Light… these are some of the newest activities that New Destiny offers the children in its affordable housing through our Family Support Program. Activities are age-specific and therapeutic (as well as fun) and are designed to meet the developmental and emotional needs of children who have witnessed domestic violence. In addition to fostering new friendships, therapeutic activities improve children’s communication skills and ability to identify and express feelings; and enhance their self-control and ability to follow directions.

“Using a trauma-informed approach has such a positive impact on the kids. It’s great to see their social skills flourish while they are also having fun,” explains Thaiasia Johnson, one of the Family Support Program’s Children’s Activities Specialists.

The program also offers parenting support when children have special needs or behavioral challenges. A Children and Family Services Coordinator conducts psychosocial assessments of children; and provides one-on-one counseling, referrals to specialized services and follow-up support with school-based Individualized Education Programs (IEP).

Preserving Affordable Housing

Each year, 11,000 adults and children stay in a New York City domestic violence shelter. Combined with the lack of affordable housing in New York City, it can be nearly impossible for survivors to find safe, affordable housing. To increase the number of affordable apartments available to homeless domestic violence survivors, New Destiny is participating in two joint ventures with for-profit affordable housing developers: Georgica Green Ventures in Brooklyn, with 77 units set aside for domestic violence survivors coming from a New York City domestic violence shelter; and a project with BFC Partners in Queens, with 69 units for this population. New Destiny will provide on-site services through its Family Support Program at each project.
Our Annual Cocktail Benefit – April 26, 2018

Over 250 friends, colleagues and supporters joined us on April 26 in honoring Michael T. Rooney, Founding Principal, MDG Design + Construction, LLC; Eric Enderlin, President, New York City Housing Development Corporation; and Lynn Rosenthal, Director, Violence Against Women Initiative, Biden Foundation. The event raised nearly $250,000 for New Destiny—funds that will help us continue to develop safe, affordable, permanent housing with services for previously homeless survivors of domestic violence.

In courageously telling her story, our tenant speaker reminded each of us why we fight every day for New Yorkers who are at risk of homelessness and domestic violence:

“My apartment has caused me to become stable. Both of my children have adjusted well socially and academically. This year my daughter will be graduating…and was accepted to several colleges. Both of my children participate in trips and activities and the Tenant Support Coordinator has been a great support to me, helping me to obtain or retain benefits. During my time at the shelter, I could not imagine where I would be. Thanks God today all is well. I would like to thank New Destiny Housing staff who have worked with me in keeping my apartment.”