



## Raven Hall Ribbon Cutting

We were elated to join our development partner, Georgica Green Ventures, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorating the opening of Raven Hall, our newest affordable housing project. Located in Coney Island, Raven Hall has 77 units for families coming directly from domestic



**Raven Hall** (Architect: Stephen B. Jacobs Group; Contractor: West 20th Construction LLC)

violence shelters. Event speakers included officials from Georgica Green Ventures, the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York City Department of Housing, Preservation & Development, the New York City Council, and New Destiny. Operating and service support for the building is provided by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance through the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI).

“Providing affordable, permanent housing with trauma-informed services is the single most effective response to ending homelessness caused by domestic violence,”



*Raven Hall ribbon cutting*

Nicole Branca, our Executive Director, said at the event. “Raven Hall provides more than apartments. With a lounge, meeting space, a children’s playroom, and case management offices, it provides space for healing and for our survivors and their children to build a new community.”

## Housing Search Program for Survivors with Vouchers

New Destiny received a citywide Housing Navigator contract through the NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development to provide housing search assistance to up to 1,168 domestic violence survivors who are prioritized for Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) through the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic & Gender-Based Violence. Similar to our HousingLink program, EHV Housing Navigators identify appropriate units based on safety, affordability, and family size and help them navigate the paperwork and bureaucracy to move into their new home. Thanks to The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, we are able to provide aftercare services for survivors receiving our housing navigation assistance to help them maintain stability in their new homes.

## Inaugural Housing Symposium

On March 10, we held our *Inaugural Symposium: Innovative Housing Solutions to Address the Homelessness Crisis for Domestic Violence Survivors* which featured national, state and local experts in the field, including Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Commissioner Cecile Noel and New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Executive Director Kelli Owens, and domestic violence survivors who shared best practices and lessons learned about emerging and existing evidence-based solutions to address the domestic violence and homelessness crises. The event was hosted by Trinity Church Wall Street and was live-streamed.



## Launching Instagram

We are thrilled to announce that we are now on Instagram! Follow us to receive updates on our advocacy efforts, get a glimpse of our buildings, read survivor stories, and keep up to date with our latest achievements!

## Advocacy

We continued to press Mayor Eric Adams' administration to commit to ending family homelessness through a comprehensive and adequately funded housing and homelessness plan. During the March budget hearings, we urged the administration to adequately staff the city agencies that manage rental subsidies and housing and to invest in affordable housing. With the Family Homelessness Coalition, we sent a letter to Mayor Adams and Speaker Adrienne Adams outlining recommendations for the adopted budget and we provided input on the plan directly to the administration as part of a housing expert roundtable. Several of our priorities were included in the administration's *A Blueprint for Housing and Homelessness* including creating a new system to capture the true scope of homelessness, expanding access to homeless set-asides to all homeless New Yorkers, exploring ways to open up city-funded supportive housing for families, and expanding the 2020 microgrant pilot program for domestic violence survivors.

In February, we testified at the first oversight hearing of the New York City Council Women and Gender Equity Committee to call on the city to eliminate barriers to housing for domestic violence victims and their children. To effectively address our homelessness crises, we must capture

the actual scope of homelessness. In May, we testified in support of Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala's proposed Intro 212, which would require the city to create a comprehensive report that accurately reflects the total number of individuals and families using shelters, including those living in DV shelters. In June, we submitted a memo to the New York City Council in support of Intros. 211, 212, and 303. We also joined the New York Housing Conference, Council Members, and advocates in the launch of the NYC Housing Tracker.

At the State level, we joined The Supportive Housing Network of New York in asking for a cost-of-living increase for the New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP) which funds services at our oldest buildings. With the Family Homeless Coalition, we urged legislators to fully fund the Housing Access Voucher Program and to invest in the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Additionally, we submitted a memorandum of support for A6207B to Assembly Speaker Heastie and members of the Committee on Codes. This legislation would allow victims of domestic violence to break away from contracts, such as utility and phone, without penalty, which is critical to enable them to flee abusive environments and mitigate further economic abuse as they try to rebuild their lives in safety.



Press conference to launch the NYC Housing Tracker.

## Presenting at the Annual New York State Supportive Housing Conference



On June 2, Brenda Tong, Deputy Executive Director; Thaisia Johnson, Case Manager; and Timara Williams, a tenant in one of our buildings, participated in the Helping Families Heal from Domestic Violence workshop at The Supportive Housing Network of New York's Annual Conference. Alongside co-panelist Kristie A. Thomas, Director and Associate Professor at Simmons University School of Social Work, and Moderator, John Kimble, Senior Advisor, NYC Fund to End Youth & Family Homelessness, the panel provided an overview of Ms. Thomas' independent evaluation of our Family Support Program, showing that our type of supportive housing — affordable housing combined with trauma-informed services — successfully helps domestic violence survivors to remain safe and stably housed.

## Award for The Corden

The Corden, completed in 2021, received a Big Apple Brownfield Award for Community Support Services from the New York City Brownfield Partnership at their award celebration on June 7. Designed by Magnusson Architecture and Planning, PC and engineered by VHB, The Corden has 62 apartments with 37 set-aside for households headed by homeless domestic violence survivors and offers on-site services provided by our Family Support Program including safety planning, job readiness assistance, financial planning, and children and family programming.



Left to right: Richard Conley, New Destiny; Nancy Doon, VHB; Joseph Moyer, Magnusson Architecture and Planning