

# FY 2022 IN REVIEW

28 years of helping survivors flee domestic violence by connecting them to safe, affordable housing and services

### From the Executive Director

FY 2022 was one of firsts: the opening of our first (and then second!) joint venture projects, with a combined 146 apartments for homeless domestic violence survivors and their children; hosting our first Domestic Violence Housing Symposium; and receiving our first big city contract to provide housing navigation assistance to over 1,000 households across the five boroughs.

In addition to the two new joint ventures, The Kira and Raven Hall, New Destiny's new flagship residence, The Corden, officially opened this year, and our Family Support Program exploded in size to staff up these three new buildings.

Our small but mighty advocacy team had another incredible year, successfully moving the needle on accessing more housing resources for domestic violence survivors, and we created a new unit dedicated to ensuring long-term housing stability for the families we're housing in the community.

All of this could only be accomplished through the dedication and teamwork of our ever-growing staff and board, the generosity of our funders and donors, and our exceptional government, affordable housing, and community-based partners.

In gratitude, Nicole Branca





# Advocacy Wins Lead to Better Rental Subsidies for DV Survivors

In FY22 New Destiny played a critical role in successfully advocating for increased housing voucher rates at both the City and the State. New Destiny joined Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, State Senator Brian Kavanagh, and partner organizations in December 2021 when Governor Hochul signed S.6573/A.8009 into law, legislation that raised the value of the State's rental subsidy program, the Family Homelessness and Eviction **Prevention Supplement Programs** (FHEPS), up to Section 8 levels. In doing so, this made this subsidy viable for domestic violence survivors and other vulnerable populations who had been at a distinct disadvantage finding housing in this housing market with less to offer landlords.

In New York City, the battle was to ensure long-term stability with the City's equivalent voucher, CityFHEPS.

New Destiny, alongside New

Yorkers impacted by homelessness and other organizations, urged the administration to eliminate what was known as an "income cliff" and succeeded: in November 2021 city officials announced they would increase the eligibility income for renewal from 250% of the Federal Poverty Line, or under \$55,000 for a family of three, to 80% AMI, currently \$96,080 for a family of three. The rule, had it not been changed, would have forced voucher recipients to make the impossible choice between earning a higher income or remaining in their homes.

New Destiny also provided input on Mayor Adams's housing plan as part of a housing expert roundtable and through a consistent media and social media presence. Several of our policy priorities to increase access to housing resources for domestic violence survivors were included in the administration's housing plan, *Housing our Neighbors*.



# ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

#### 2022 NYC Policy Platform

released in January, which identified four priorities to help put our city on the path to effectively ending homelessness among domestic violence survivors:

- Capture the True Scope of Homelessness
- Expand Access to Homeless Set-Asides
- Open Up City-Funded Supportive Housing to Survivors
- Increase Investment in Homelessness Prevention

## Inaugural Housing Symposium held in March 2022

The half-day event engaged leading national, state, and local experts, and individuals with lived experience, on innovative practices for preventing and ending homelessness for domestic violence survivors.

"Because of our work together, approximately 2,300 more families have become able to find housing using a FHEPS voucher."

 Assemblymember Linda B.
 Rosenthal, Committee on Social Services Chair

### **Continued Development Growth**



Architect's rendering of Highgarden Tower, New Rochelle. Joint venture partner: RXR, Georgica Green Ventures; Architect: Stephen B. Jacobs Group; Contractor: West 20<sup>th</sup> Construction LLC.

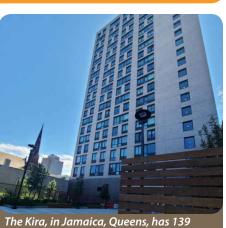
All three of New Destiny's new buildings finished renting up this past year, moving in a total of 417 households, including 183 apartments for DV survivors.

Construction continued on Highgarden Tower in Westchester,

New Destiny's first building outside of New York City. Highgarden is a 21-story affordable housing development with 219 affordable rental units with 77 units reserved for homeless families headed by domestic violence survivors.



Ribbon cutting for The Kira, Queens. We completed three supportive housing developments this year, shown below. Together, they have 417 units for low-income households, 183 of which are reserved for families from domestic violence shelters.



The Kira, in Jamaica, Queens, has 139 units, 69 reserved for families from domestic violence shelters. Joint venture partners: BFC Partners, SMJ; Architect: GF55; Contractor: BFC Partners.



Raven Hall, in Brooklyn, has 216 units, 77 reserved for families from domestic violence shelters. Joint venture partner: Georgica Green Ventures; Architect: Stephen B. Jacobs Group; Contractor: West 20th Construction L.C.



Developer/Owner: New Destiny Housing; Architect: Magnusson Architecture

and Planning, PC; Contractor: D.P. Group General Contractors.

### **New Housing Navigation Program Launched**

This year, New Destiny increased the number of people we help to access apartments by over 1,000% (and that is not a typo!). In January 2022 we launched the Emergency Housing Voucher Housing Navigator Program to find housing for up to 1,168 domestic violence survivors receiving Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) through the Mayor's Office to End Domestic

and Gender-Based Violence. Our incredible new team of EHV Housing Navigators, by far the largest in the Country, identifies appropriate units based on safety, affordability, and family size that are provided by reputable landlords and helps voucher recipients navigate all the paperwork and bureaucracy to move into their new homes.

Thanks to a grant from The Leona

M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, we can provide aftercare services for survivors receiving housing navigation assistance to help them maintain stability in their new homes. These services include linking individuals with mental health services to address the impacts of trauma and PSTD that survivors and their children experience.

### Housing Link Team Continues to Lead the Way on Rapid Re-housing

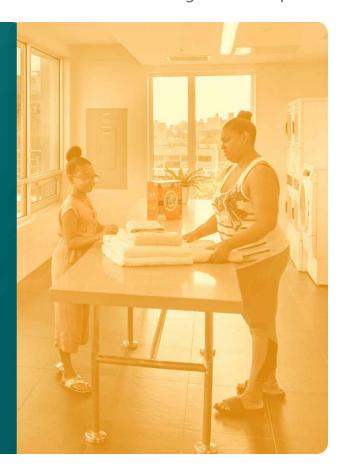
New Destiny's HUD funded Rapid Re-housing Program continued to surpass its housing goals and continued to be a trusted housing advisor in the larger DV community.

I would like to thank you all for helping me make this dream come true. I never thought that I would be able to provide an apartment for my children on my own. This could have never been possible without you! Thank you for helping me get back on my feet, for helping me start a new healthy and happy life. I am so grateful, THANK YOU!!"

- HousingLink Participant

# CONNECTING SURVIVORS TO HOUSING

- 25% increase in survivors rapidly re-housed
- 100% of survivors remained in their homes
- > 73 workshops for advocates
- > 1,750 individuals trained
- 386 survivors were welcomed
- 600 one-on-one case manager technical assistance sessions

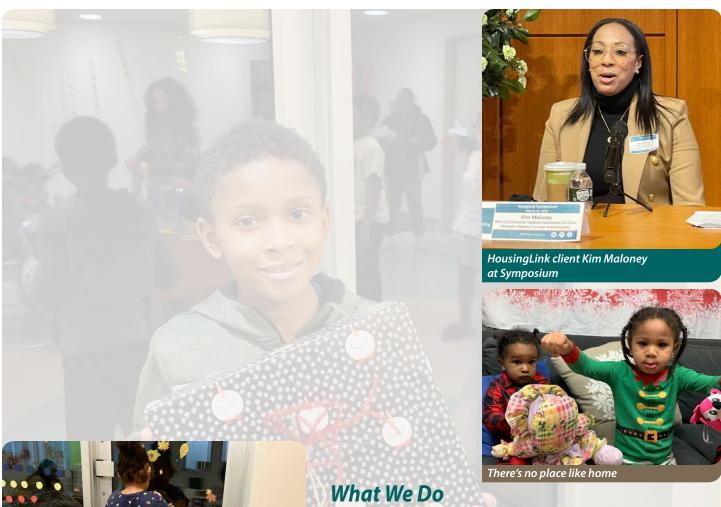




Children at play in community room

The Family Support Program has helped me to be a better mom, learn how to deal with stressful situations, open my mind to getting help when needed, and built my confidence in knowing that in life people and programs are available to help you. You just have to put pride aside to receive the resources."

- New Destiny tenant



Housing development and management, advocacy, rapid rehousing, and residential support services are the cornerstones of New Destiny. Support services aim to keep families in their homes and safe from abuse by addressing their needs through safety planning, counseling, legal referrals, benefits assistance, child care, community-building, educational and vocational services, health/wellness, and financial help. In 2022 we served more than 2,000 individuals throughout the five boroughs.

### **FY 2022 FINANCIALS**

#### Revenue, FY 2022

#### Expenses, FY 2022



Our full financial statement is available on our website at newdestinyhousing.org.

### **FY 2022 SUPPORTERS**

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New York City Council Member Cabrera

New York City Council Member Gibson

New York City Council Member Levin

New York City Council Member Sanchez

New York City Council Domestic Violence and Empowerment (DoVE) Initiative

New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development / NYCHA

New York City Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence / HRA

New York State Homes and Community Renewal

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

### **Inaugural Housing Symposium**



In March 2022, we held our Inaugural Symposium: Innovative Housing Solutions to Address the Homelessness Crisis for Domestic Violence Survivors. National, state, and local experts in the field, alongside domestic violence survivors, shared best practices and lessons learned about emerging and existing evidence-based solutions to address the domestic violence and homelessness crises. Hosted by Trinity Church Wall Street Philanthropies, nearly 250 people attended in person or via live stream.

### **Celebrating our accomplishments in-person!**

On April 13, 2022, friends, colleagues, and supporters joined us for our first in-person Annual Cocktail Benefit since 2019. Together, we commemorated our achievements over the past year and celebrated our honorees: Housing Champions of the Year: New York State Senator Brian Kavanagh and New York State Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal, Community Partner of the Year: TD Bank, and Resilience Award recipient: Timara Williams.



### **Mission Statement**

New Destiny's mission is to end the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness for low-income families and individuals by developing and connecting them to safe, permanent housing and services.

To achieve its mission, New Destiny builds and manages housing with on-site services; offers innovative programs that assist survivors in finding and retaining affordable housing; and expands access to permanent housing resources for survivors.



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