

2014 Milestones

Our Name has Changed: Mission Stays the Same

From our beginnings, nurtured by a caring community, Reston Interfaith—now Cornerstones—has grown to become one of the most effective nonprofits in the region, providing help today for people in need and offering hope for a stronger tomorrow.

True to our roots, our new name allows us to be ever more inclusive of all our supporters and donors, both in Reston and across the region.

Making Home Affordable: Apartments at North Point

After a long journey guided by Cornerstones Housing Corporation — aided by our supporters and partners like Bozzuto, Fairfax County, Virginia Housing Development Authority, Freddie Mac, NII, Wells Fargo, and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Best of Reston partnership—Cornerstones officially purchased the Apartments at North Point, providing permanent, affordable housing for individuals and working families who cannot afford the high rents in Fairfax County. This acquisition brings to 101 the number of homes we own.

Best of Reston: A Special Celebration

The 23rd Annual Best of Reston Gala (April 2013) honored eight individuals, organizations and businesses for their distinctive community service. The event also recognized the 50th year of the founding of Reston and the 100th birthday of its founder, Robert E. Simon.

Cornerstones announced before the sold-out crowd of more than 800 guests that a record-breaking \$1,178,000 was raised over two years to help Cornerstones' double its stock of affordable housing in Reston.

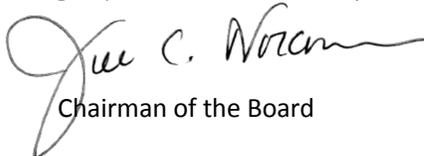
A Message From Our Leadership

Cornerstones—formerly Reston Interfaith—worked through the economic recession, housing collapse and federal budget turmoil with renewed focus: re-positioning the organization for the future by examining our strengths and identity as an organization, and working with our partners to strengthen the community's safety net.

In the face of increasing needs, we declared bold goals through 2015: doubling our housing stock, reinforcing the wrap-around services to bring greater stability to families, and returning to our roots in community-building and engagement. The acquisition of the Apartments at North Point in Reston offers a real and permanent option for seniors and working families in Reston. We made a huge investment to bring partners together in an innovative model of social change known as "collective impact" through the Connections for Hope Partnership and nonprofit center that is a model for our region in strategic alignment of resources to build stable, healthy and connected communities.

Our name change reflects both the beliefs and courage of people of faith and goodwill who founded the organization around Robert E. Simon's core principles, while welcoming new supporters who understand the need to build a lasting foundation of hope and care for people in need.

We know there is much we can do together to improve the health and well-being of our community today. There are other things that take our collective effort—increasing and preserving affordable housing, helping workers gain the education and skills that employers need now and in the future, and ensuring a bright future for our children. Thank you for working with us to bring hope for tomorrow today.


Chairman of the Board


CEO



From a H.O.U.S.E to a Home

Terry* and her husband, hard-working parents of three young children, were struggling to make ends meet and living in Section 8 housing in New York. Their apartment was run by what Terry called “a slum lord” who would not respond to their urgent and repeated requests to make repairs to their home. It was when a ceiling fell in a bedroom where her children, ages five, eight and nine, were playing that she and her husband knew they had to start a new life.

Terry visited her brother who lives in the Reston area and decided that Reston is where she and her husband should work and raise their children. Her family quickly packed their things and moved in with Terry’s brother.

Terry learned about Cornerstones’ housing, and after an interview with Cornerstones to assess their housing options, she and her family qualified for H.O.U.S.E. (Housing OpportUNITies Strengthen Everyone), Cornerstones’ signature housing program. Terry and her husband had poor credit due to withholding rent payment from their slum lord in an attempt to force the completion of the much needed repairs.

The H.O.U.S.E. program is for households with low income or facing other barriers to stable and affordable permanent housing such as bad credit, high debt, or past evictions. In many cases, those households are paying 50 percent or more of their income toward housing costs, leaving little or nothing for basic needs such as childcare, transportation, and health related expenses. Terry and her husband committed to a H.O.U.S.E. services program to include working with a case manager and moved into a three-bedroom town home owned by Cornerstones, which Terry said, “Seemed brand new. It was in good condition. We were impressed!”

Terry, who secured employment at a local high school, and her husband, then employed by a national retailer, utilized a variety of resources provided by Cornerstones, especially money management programs. It’s been nine years since Terry and her family moved to Reston. Having safe, affordable housing gave them the start they needed, and they recently have made plans to move into a larger home where her oldest son, for the first time, has a room of his own.

*Cornerstones respects everyone who comes to us for help – and many are working toward a fresh start in life. So, this client’s name and family image have been changed to protect their privacy. Thank you for understanding.