



NEW DESTINY'S Third Annual Symposium on Housing Solutions for Survivors of Domestic Violence

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender
Community Center – New York, NY



Welcome to New Destiny's 2024 Symposium

As New Destiny documented in our recent report, ***A Crisis Compounded: The Dual Crises of Domestic Violence and Homelessness***, domestic violence and homelessness are inherently linked. In the United States, 80% of women with children struggling with homelessness have also experienced domestic violence, and 57% of all women experiencing homelessness report domestic violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness. More than 1 in 3 individuals will experience abuse by an intimate partner in their lifetime across New York State. In New York City, the police file 1 domestic violence incident report every 2 minutes, and the 24-hour hotline receives 1 call every 6 minutes. For survivors, remaining in an abusive situation can mean death. Despite a general decline in violent crime in our city, domestic violence homicides increased by nearly 30% between 2021 and 2022.

Access to safe and affordable housing is one of survivors' biggest, most urgent concerns and it often determines whether they leave their abuser and stay alive. Without a safe home, it is impossible for survivors to address the long-lasting health consequences of the abuse. Survivors are 31% more likely to develop cardiovascular disease and 51% more likely to develop type 2 diabetes compared to those who have not been impacted by domestic violence. Also, new research shows that survivors sustain head trauma more often than football players, but their head injuries are rarely diagnosed and properly treated. This happens to such an extent that the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control now recognize intimate partner violence as a leading cause of traumatic brain injury. For children who experience or witness abuse, a safe home is essential to heal and break the cycle of violence.

For the last three years, New Destiny has organized annual symposia as platforms to engage leading national, state, and local policymakers, nonprofit leaders, and lived experts in constructive discussions about best practices and innovative models to provide housing and critical services to those impacted by domestic violence. Thank you for joining us and being part of this movement with us.

ABOUT NEW DESTINY HOUSING

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, affordable housing and services.

Access the report



AT A GLANCE

	ROOM 101	ROOM 110	ROOM 310
09:30 AM	WELCOMING REMARKS		
9:40 AM	KEYNOTE		
9:47 AM	REMARKS		
9:55 AM	PLENARY: INNOVATIONS IN PREVENTION		
10:45 AM	SESSION 1.A. NATIONAL RESPONSE TO HOUSING AND SUPPORTING SURVIVORS	SESSION 1.B. MAKING RENTAL ASSISTANCE WORK	SESSION 1.C. BEST PRACTICES TO MEANINGFULLY INCLUDE LIVED EXPERTS IN ADVOCACY
11:30 AM	<i>Break</i>		
11:45 AM	SESSION 2.A. SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS	SESSION 2.B. HOUSING SURVIVORS FROM THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY	SESSION 2.C. OVERCOMING THE DOUBLE TRAUMA OF ABUSE AND HOMELESSNESS
12:30 PM	<i>Break</i>		
12:45 PM	CLOSING REMARKS		
12:50 PM	CLOSING KEYNOTE		

PROGRAM

9:00 AM: REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST, NETWORKING [ROOM 101]

9:30 AM: PROGRAM BEGINS [ROOM 101]

WELCOMING REMARKS

Nicole Branca, MPA, *she/her*, Executive Director, New Destiny Housing

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Anne Williams-Isom, *she/her*, NYC Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services

REMARKS

Vanessa L. Gibson, *she/her*, Bronx Borough President

PLENARY: INNOVATIONS IN PREVENTION [ROOM 101]

A moderated discussion on best practices and emerging intervention models to thwart the crises of domestic and gender-based violence in New York State and City.

Kelli Owens, *she/her*, Executive Director, NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Saloni Sethi, *they/she*, Commissioner, NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

Moderator: Stephanie Woodbine, *she/her*, Survivor, Co-Chair of ENDGBV's Advisory Council, and Resource Coordinator, New Destiny Housing

10:45 AM: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION 1.A: NATIONAL RESPONSE TO HOUSING SURVIVORS [ROOM 101]

As we celebrate 30 years of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), panel experts will discuss the progress the federal government has made over recent years to expand access to permanent housing resources for domestic violence survivors and innovative models being developed by the private sector.

Celia Jones, *she/her*, Program Manager, Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Elena Hampton-Stover, LMSW, *she/her*, Director of Housing, National Network to End Domestic Violence

Laura Clancy, *she/her*, Executive Director, The Bridge Project

Moderator: Pascale Leone, *she/her*, Executive Director, Supportive Housing Network of New York

BREAKOUT SESSION 1.B: MAKING RENTAL ASSISTANCE WORK [ROOM 110]

In New York City, where asking rents grew faster than any other large city in the country in 2022, rental subsidies, such as Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, FHEPS, or Rapid Re-Housing, can be life-saving resources for survivors and for the millions of New Yorkers experiencing housing instability. Panelists will explore the important role of rental assistance programs and strategies for utilizing these programs more effectively and efficiently.

Alexandra Warren, *she/her*, Assistant Commissioner, Housing Stability, NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development

Manon Vergerio, *she/her*, Head of Data & Advocacy, Unlock NYC

Tanisha McFarlane, *she/her*, Landlord Engagement Manager, New Destiny Housing

Moderator: Jennifer DeCarli, Esq., MSW, *she/her*, Deputy Commissioner for Family Justice Centers and Survivor Supports, NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

PROGRAM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS CONT.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1.C: BEST PRACTICES TO MEANINGFULLY INCLUDE LIVED EXPERTS IN ADVOCACY [ROOM 310, 3RD FLOOR]

In the last decade, a growing number of housing organizations have sought to engage individuals with lived experience in their advocacy campaigns and policy work. Hear from lived experts on best practices for involvement and giving agency to those who have experienced housing instability.

Daniris Espinal, she/her, Survivor and Member of New Destiny Housing's Survivor Voices Project

Rivianna Hyatt, they/them, Worker-Owner, Housing Justice Collective

Sharlena Powell, she/her, Lived Expert, Culinary Educator, and Founder, BLISS-TA

Moderator: Jill Markowitz, she/her, Board Member, New Destiny Housing

11:30 AM: BREAK

11:45 AM: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BREAKOUT SESSION 2.A: SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS [ROOM 101]

Supportive Housing combines permanent, affordable housing and onsite support services. Over the years, the model has evolved from serving only individuals with complex behavioral health needs, such as those living with severe mental illness and a long history of homelessness, to include other vulnerable populations, such as youth, veterans, and domestic violence survivors. This panel will provide guidance on best practices to create supportive housing for those impacted by domestic violence, from financing to thoughtful design and services.

Cynthia Amodeo, LMHC, she/her, Chief Executive Officer, Barrier Free Living

Dana Greenberg, MSW, she/her, Director, Bureau of Housing & Support Services, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Nicole Branca, MPA, she/her, Executive Director, New Destiny Housing

Moderator: Blanca Ramirez, she/her, President & CEO, Comunilife

BREAKOUT SESSION 2.B: HOUSING SURVIVORS FROM THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY [ROOM 110]

Members of the LGBTQIA+ community are impacted by intimate partner violence and/or sexual assault at higher rates than their cisgender and heterosexual peers. Yet, survivors face additional barriers to services and a lack of understanding around LGBTQIA+ relationships, identities, and partner abuse dynamics. Join experts to learn more about the hurdles survivors from the LGBTQIA+ community encounter when seeking a safe, permanent home in New York, as well as existing pathways to housing.

Aditi Bhattacharya, LCSW, she/her, Director, Client Services, Anti-Violence Project

Joe Westmacott, he/him/his, Director of Housing and Benefits, Safe Horizon Streetwork Project

Mildred Ramirez, LMSW, she/her, Director of LGBTQ Supportive Housing, Homeward Central Harlem, True Colors Residence LP

Moderator: Cole Giannone, they/them, Senior Advisor, Fund to End Youth & Family Homelessness

PROGRAM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS CONT.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2.C: OVERCOMING THE DOUBLE TRAUMA OF ABUSE AND HOMELESSNESS [ROOM 310, 3RD FLOOR]

Violence and homelessness have long-lasting, intergenerational effects, which make survivors and their children more vulnerable to future housing insecurity and abuse. One in 6 heads of households in NYC Department of Homeless Services shelters were in shelter as children. Furthermore, children exposed to domestic violence are more likely to experience it again as adults, either as victims or perpetrators. This panel will discuss clinical and therapeutic interventions that help survivors address trauma, heal, and thrive.

Marcus Galloway, LMSW, he/him, Director of Mental Health Services, New Destiny Housing

Michelle Balandra, LLMFT, she/her/ella, Program Manager for the Child and Adolescent, Violence Intervention Program

Stephanie Mansfield, she/her, Survivor and Member of New Destiny Housing's Survivor Voices Project

Moderator: Tracy Perrizo, she/her, Program Officer, New York City Program, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust

12:30 PM: BREAK

12:45 PM: CONCLUSION [ROOM 101]

CLOSING REMARKS

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal, she/her, NYS Assembly Housing Committee Chair

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Kerrian Ellis, she/her, Survivor of Domestic Violence, Author, and New Destiny Housing Client

FINAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nicole Branca, MPA, she/her, Executive Director, New Destiny Housing

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Nicole Branca, MPA, she/her, Executive Director, New Destiny Housing

Nicole has 20 years of experience working in housing and homelessness. Since becoming Executive Director of New Destiny in 2020, New Destiny has tripled its budget, staff size, and housing portfolio by developing new supportive housing buildings, expanding its program that helps domestic violence survivors access subsidies and find apartments across the city, building out an innovative new program focused on housing retention and creating an advocacy department.



Deputy Mayor Anne Williams-Isom, she/her

As Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, Anne Williams-Isom ensures that the City's healthcare and social services systems are run compassionately, equitably and effectively for all New Yorkers. She has over three decades of leadership and management experience and has served as an educator at Fordham Graduate School of Social Service, the Chief Executive Officer for the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), in various leadership roles at ACS, and as a practicing attorney.



Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, she/her

Vanessa L. Gibson serves over 1.4 million residents and families as the 14th Bronx Borough President. A native New Yorker, she has successfully navigated through her political career, rising through the ranks of the New York City political landscape, and has always championed domestic violence issues. Having experiences such as serving in the NYS Assembly and NYC Council, Ms. Gibson has successfully represented her constituents and put their needs in the forefront of her policy work.



Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal, she/her

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal (D/WF- Manhattan) represents the 67th Assembly District, which includes the Upper West Side and parts of Hell's Kitchen. She is a lifelong resident of the Upper West Side and serves as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Social Services. Since taking office in 2006, Assemblymember Rosenthal has passed more than 150 laws that have helped to improve the lives of all New York State residents.



Kerrian Ellis, she/her, Survivor of Domestic Violence, Author, and New Destiny Housing Client

Kerrian Ellis is a dedicated single mother, nurse, and author. She prides herself on being hardworking and dedicated, with a passion for connecting with others. In her free time, she loves decorating her home and cooking delicious meals. She's also a movie enthusiast and have a deep appreciation for nature. Her faith in God guides her through life's challenges.

Kerrian's Books



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:



#NDSymposium



www.newdestinyhousing.org

Contact: gsrequena@newdestinyhousing.org

