Innovative Housing Solutions to Address the Homelessness Crisis for Domestic Violence Survivors

Thursday, March 10, 2022
Trinity Church Wall Street - Trinity Commons, New York
Opening Remarks by Terri Davis-Merchant, Program Director for the Housing & Homelessness initiative, Trinity Church Wall Street Philanthropies

Terri Davis-Merchant manages Trinity’s grantmaking in furtherance of its ten-year strategy to combat homelessness and to support the development of affordable housing in New York City. Previously, Terri was the Director of Predevelopment Planning at the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development, where she managed the Request for Proposals process for upcoming affordable housing development projects on publicly owned land. Her past roles have included legislative advocacy around various housing issues as well as financing for and the legal representation of community-based organizations building affordable housing. Terri received her JD from the University of Michigan Law School.

Welcoming Remarks by Nicole Branca, Executive Director, New Destiny Housing Corporation

Nicole Branca has over 20 years of experience working to expand resources and develop and implement the programs and systems needed to end homelessness. Prior to New Destiny, Nicole was Associate Commissioner at the NYC Department of Veterans’ Services, where she led the city’s effort to end veteran homelessness. She spent over a decade leading policy and advocacy work at the Supportive Housing Network of New York and was a long-time co-chair of the NYC Continuum of Care (CoC). She received her master’s degree from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs. LinkedIn
Federal Perspective: A video welcome from Jeff Olivet, Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Jeff Olivet is Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. He has worked to prevent and end homelessness for more than 25 years as a street outreach worker, case manager, coalition builder, researcher, and trainer. He is the founder of jo consulting, co-founder of Racial Equity Partners, and from 2010 to 2018, he served as CEO of C4 Innovations. Throughout his career, he has worked extensively in the areas of homelessness and housing, health and behavioral health, HIV, education, and organizational development. Jeff has been principal investigator on multiple research studies funded by private foundations and the National Institutes of Health. He is deeply committed to social justice, racial equity, gender equality, and inclusion for all. He has a master’s degree from Boston College.

The Big Picture: A moderated discussion on the intersectionality between racial and gender inequality, family homelessness and domestic violence, and the effects of this trauma on survivors and their children

Historical racial and gender inequities continue to account for the disproportionate impact of homelessness and domestic violence on women of color. In this conversation, Kelli Owens and Cecile Noel examine how these disparities relate to long-term social determinants of health and share ideas on new and promising initiatives to mitigate structural inequalities.

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

Cecile Noel, Commissioner, New York City Mayor’s Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence

Kelli Owens, Executive Director, New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
The Big Picture: About the Presenters

**Tracy Perrizo (Moderator)**
Tracy Perrizo is the Program Officer for The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Foundation’s New York City Health Program. In this role, she identifies and designs grantmaking initiatives toward stabilizing health for high needs patients in NYC. She currently manages their full portfolio of New York City grants. Prior to Helmsley, Tracy spent the last two decades supporting survivors of domestic violence living in shelter in New York City at Safe Horizon in roles ranging from Social Worker, to Shelter Director, to Associate Vice President. Tracy holds a master’s degree in Social Work from Hunter College School of Social Work. [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com)

**Cecile Noel**
Cecile Noel was appointed Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) in October 2015. In her prior position as the Executive Deputy Commissioner for the Human Resources Administration (HRA) Emergency Intervention Services, she oversaw expansions in both residential and non-residential services for domestic violence survivors across the network of 52 New York City-funded domestic violence shelters. She launched one of the first school-based domestic violence prevention programs in the country, which now operates in 94 New York City public schools. Cecile holds a Master’s Degree in Social Work Administration from Columbia University.

**Kelli Owens**
Kelli Owens is the Executive Director of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), the only executive-level gender-based violence state agency in the country. OPDV is responsible for advising the Governor’s Office and Legislature on gender-based violence policies and programs, training and public awareness campaigns throughout the state, and working to ensure comprehensive domestic and sexual violence service provision statewide. Prior to joining OPDV, Kelli was the Director of Women’s Affairs for the Governor’s Office and has worked with numerous women’s organizations including YWCAs and Planned Parenthood.
Community-Based Housing Solutions: Leveraging voucher programs and resources to help survivors attain and retain permanent housing

Rooted in the Housing First approach, the Rapid Re-housing model has proven to be a key intervention to reduce the trauma associated with displacement and homelessness. This panel will explore how Rapid Re-housing has been tailored for survivors to address safety concerns and financial needs, while supporting self-determination and long-term housing stability.

**Moderator:** Jennifer DeCarli, Deputy Commissioner for Family Justice Centers and Outreach, New York City Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

Kris Billhardt, Director of Program and Practice Innovation, Safe Housing Alliance

Melissa Broderick, Director of Supportive Housing Services, The Road Home

Kim Maloney, New York City CoC Domestic Violence Committee Co-Chair, domestic violence survivor and advocate

Kristina Sellers, domestic violence survivor and advocate

Community-Based Housing Solutions: About the Presenters

Jennifer DeCarli (Moderator)

Jennifer DeCarli is the Deputy Commissioner for Family Justice Centers and Outreach at the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV). In this role, she oversees the operations of the City’s five Family Justice Centers as well as the office’s outreach and housing initiatives work including serving as a Co-Chair of the Domestic Violence subcommittee of the New York City Continuum of Care (CoC). She has over 25 years of experience working with survivors of domestic and gender-based violence and holds a master’s degree in Social Work from NYU and a law degree from the University at Buffalo School of Law. [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-decarli/)

New Destiny’s Inaugural Symposium
Kris Billhardt
Kris Billhardt’s four decades in the DV/SA movement is fueled by commitment to meaningful intersectional response to survivors. Her work on the development of survivor-driven rapid rehousing, mobile advocacy, and flexible funding has contributed to field-level change. Kris now serves as Director of Program and Practice Innovation at Safe Housing Alliance (formerly known as the National Alliance for Safe Housing).

Melissa Broderick
Melissa Broderick, MPA, oversees housing case management at The Road Home. She has been with the agency for three years and has worked in homeless services, both in Salt Lake City, UT and Seattle, WA, for twelve years. Housing First, harm reduction, and trauma-informed care are at the heart of every decision she makes. Finding creative solutions to ending homelessness and serving our most vulnerable community members is her passion.

Kim Maloney
Kim Maloney is a mother, daughter, nurse, and most importantly a survivor of domestic violence. As a nurse she advocates for her patients and more recently she advocates for victims of domestic violence. Kim is a co-chair of the NYC Continuum of Care Domestic Violence Committee, which informs program evaluation, coordinated entry and income access.

Kristina Sellers
Kristina Sellers resides in a New Destiny building and is the proud mother of two boys. She works as an assistant to a Senior Vice President at the Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, supporting people with developmental disabilities. She is a survivor of domestic violence as well as drug addiction, and has 16 years of sobriety. Kristina is an advocate who believes that experiencing bad times can help people become the best versions of themselves.
11:45 AM
A New York State Perspective: Remarks from New York State Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal, Chair of the Committee on Social Services

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal represents the 67th Assembly district, which includes the Upper West Side and parts of Clinton/Hell’s Kitchen in Manhattan. Elected in 2006, she has passed more than 120 laws that have helped to improve the lives of all New York State residents. In her tenure, she has established herself as a leading advocate on affordable housing, domestic violence, consumer protection, government reform, environmental issues and animal cruelty.

12:00 PM
Supportive Housing: Best practices to meet the needs of survivors and their families

Supportive Housing combines permanent, affordable housing and onsite support services. It was initially designed for individuals with complex behavioral health needs, such as those living with severe mental illness, chemical dependency, and a long history of homelessness. Over the years, the model has been adapted for domestic violence survivors and other vulnerable populations, allowing providers to focus on the greatest service needs of their specific population. Presenters will discuss the supportive housing model for survivors from the academic, tenant, and service provider perspectives.

**Moderator: Laura Mascuch**, Executive Director, Supportive Housing Network of New York

**Tiffany Jones**, domestic violence survivor and advocate

**Isa Martinez-McDonald**, Regional Director – Bronx, New Destiny

**Kristie A. Thomas**, Director and Associate Professor, Simmons University School of Social Work

**Toi Walker-Smith**, Manager of Housing Services, Willow Domestic Violence Center
Supportive Housing: About the Presenters

Laura Mascuch (Moderator)
Laura Mascuch has nearly thirty years of experience in supportive housing and homelessness. She has spent the last seven years as Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Network of New York, a membership organization representing more than 200 nonprofits that collectively provide over 55,000 units of supportive housing. The Network helped lead a three-year effort that eventually won commitments from the Mayor and Governor to create 35,000 units of supportive housing over the next fifteen years. LinkedIn

Tiffany Jones
Tiffany Jones has resided in a New Destiny Housing building since the summer of 2020. Prior to that she lived in a New York City domestic violence shelter, where she moved in 2019 after leaving an abusive relationship in Texas. Becoming a tenant at New Destiny Housing helped relieve her fears during her transition into violence-free permanent housing. She currently works at Fordham University as a security guard, and plans to pursue higher education.

Isa Martinez-McDonald
Isa Martinez-McDonald has been working in the domestic violence advocacy community for over 25 years, providing direct services and overseeing programs for homeless people, domestic violence survivors, individuals with mental illness and/or substance abuse and AIDS/HIV. She joined New Destiny Housing in November 2013 as the Housing Services Director. Prior to New Destiny Housing, she was the Director of Freedom House, a domestic violence shelter for people with disabilities. LinkedIn

Kristie A. Thomas
Kristie A. Thomas, PhD, MSW, is an Associate Professor and the MSW Director at Simmons University School of Social Work. She has extensive practice, teaching, and research expertise in the anti-violence field. Her work focuses on developing and enhancing community-informed programs for people affected by intimate partner violence (IPV) – particularly those who are economically and socially marginalized. LinkedIn
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*Toi Walker-Smith*
Toi Walker-Smith, MSHA, is Manager of Housing Services at Willow Domestic Violence Center in Rochester, NY. Prior to being fast-tracked into a leadership position, she was a Residential Family Counselor at Willow’s 49-bed emergency shelter and has decades of case management experience in community settings. Toi oversees day-to-day services for survivors in Willow’s supportive housing units and Rapid Re-housing programs, and manages a growing portfolio of new partnerships to expand supportive housing services for survivors in urban, suburban and rural Monroe County. [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com)

**12:50 PM**  
*Keynote address by Pauletta Perez, CFO, Snark22, Board Member, New Destiny Housing, and domestic violence advocate*

*Paulette Perez* is an independent consultant and executive leader providing accounting, systems implementation, and logistics services for high performance companies. She is currently the CFO for Snark22 and served as Vice President of Finance and Administration at Adopted/Caeden and as Director of Purchasing and Logistics for Incase Designs Corp. Pauletta is an accomplished advocate and public speaker on domestic violence and serves as the financial secretary on the board of Voices Against Violence for Women and Children. She is a certified domestic violence advocate. [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com)

**1:00 PM**  
*Event Ends*

New Destiny thanks Trinity Church Wall Street for hosting this event

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## Additional Information

### Resources

Creating Permanent Supportive Housing to Meet the Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence: A Toolkit for Low-Income Housing Developers, Architects, Property Managers, and Housing Service Providers, [available here](#).

Independent Evaluation of New Destiny Housing's Family Support Program, [available here](#).

New Destiny Housing 2022 NYC Policy Priorities, [available here](#).

Rapid Re-housing: Considerations for Homeless Services Providers Supporting Families Impacted by Domestic Violence, [available here](#).

Safety Planning Toolkit for Homeless/Housing Providers, [available here](#).

### Organizations

New York City Mayor's Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV): [website](#).

New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV): [website](#).

The Road Home: [www.theroadhome.org](http://www.theroadhome.org).

Safe Housing Alliance: [www.safehousingta.org](http://www.safehousingta.org).


The Supportive Housing Network of New York: [www.shnny.org](http://www.shnny.org).

Willow Domestic Violence Center: [www.willowcenterny.org](http://www.willowcenterny.org).

Learn more about New Destiny Housing [here](#).

### Questions or Comments?

Contact Gabriela Sandoval Requena at gsrequena@newdestinyhousing.org.