



Rebuilding Lives One  
Brick At A Time

# HOUSE OF DIVINE GUIDANCE, INC.

## FACT SHEET

### MISSION

House of Divine Guidance Inc. (HDG) was approved as a 501c3 nonprofit organization in May 2013. The mission of the organization is to help homeless people rebuild their lives by providing them with physical and emotional support to move out of homelessness, unemployment or underemployment.

### BACKGROUND

HDG was founded by Dr. Donna Robinson, a licensed social worker. She advocates for homeless women because she has shared and survived their experiences and she wants to help others do the same.

Established in 2013, HDG started out providing emergency shelter to women and children. HDG works in partnership with local churches in Montgomery County, Maryland. It started providing emergency shelter out of the basement of a church office building. Initially, the goal was to serve 15 persons for four weeks during the winter months. However, the demand doubled during the 2<sup>nd</sup> year when HDG was asked to serve intact families. The length of the shelter expanded to eight weeks.

By the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, the shelter had to move from the basement location into the church building. Despite the increased number served they were only allowed to stay in the church for two weeks. Since that time, HDG has partnered with six other churches rotating the shelter every one to four weeks serving up to 90 persons annually during the winter months of December to March.

HDG provides multiple services to clients

#### Emergency Shelter

Our core service for 8 years has been our 14-week Overnight Winter Emergency Shelter to homeless women and children. What is unique about the program is that we are the only shelter in the DMV that will shelter clients who have not lived in the county for one year. Over 50% of our clients are nonresidents and there is often a waiting list for a bed. This is expanding to 24-hour shelter in 2021.

#### Supportive Housing

A secondary service is a transitional house for young mothers. They pay a fee for a room rental up to one year. This provides time to gain stable employment, develop a positive rental history, and focus on increasing income. This program ran for 2 years and resumes in 2022.

#### Emergency Assistance

When the winter shelter is closed, HDG assists families by placing them in a hotel for short periods of time. Funds are also used to prevent evictions or assist with security deposits and initial rent. We provide food to families and seniors in need.

#### Case Management

Any individual contacting HDG is assisted with case management. Assistance is provided to get children enrolled in school, obtain food stamps, develop resumes, get into housing programs, obtain a license, and more. No matter what the need is, clients receive counseling and emotional support to ease their troubled minds.

#### Lifeskills Training

HDG provides lifeskills workshops, computer training, and training to develop resumes and search for employment

*HDG depends on the services of volunteers, donated space, donated supplies, and financial donations from supporters. With the recent purchase of a house, we can offer our emergency shelter and supportive housing year-round. Our grants are not enough to fund this most needed service. We appreciate the support of our donors.*

[www.houseofdivineguidance.org](http://www.houseofdivineguidance.org)

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All donations are tax-deductible