



Empowering Women Since 1997

Women in Housing & Finance Foundation

400 N. Washington St.
Suite 300
Alexandria, VA 22314
www.whfdc.org/foundation

Phone: 703-683-4742
Fax: 703-683-0018
whf@whfdc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Arielle Retrosi
whf@whfdc.org
703-683-4742

WHF Foundation Kicks Off Celebration of 20 Years with Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services

Alexandria VA –The Women in Housing and Finance Foundation (WHF Foundation) kicks off its year-long celebration of 20 years supporting women and families through financial literacy, transitional housing assistance, economic empowerment and academic scholarships on February 21, 2017 with a “Welcome and Wine” event honoring WHF grantee partner Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services (GSH). The event will be held at K&L Gates, 16th and K Streets, NW, Washington DC from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. More details about the event can be found [here](#).

The event is an opportunity for WHF members and nonmembers in the fields of housing and finance to network with colleagues and representatives of GSH over wine and cheese while assembling “welcome home” kits for families served by GSH. The kits will be given to those who are moving into stable homes where they can build new lives and futures for themselves.

“We really want to showcase our partners and grant recipients during this year of celebration,” said Mary Martha Fortney, WHF Foundation President. “It is their programs that really make a difference in the lives of low-income or other at-risk women and families. Good Shepherd Housing is one of those partners that have a proven track record of success in providing assistance to those in need.”

GSH (an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization) has been reducing homelessness and enabling self-sufficiency by providing permanent affordable housing, emergency financial services, budget counseling and case management to working-class families in Fairfax County for over 40 years. With a \$2.5 million annual budget, GSH oversees more than 80 housing units and helps more than 1,000 families and individuals in need.

“These welcome kits are an important part of our housing program,” said David Levine, President and CEO of Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. “We want our clients to be successful, so we make sure they have the tools they need that will help them take care of their home without breaking their budget.”

The WHF Foundation is holding special events throughout 2017 which recognize the nonprofits supported by its Partnership Grants Programs, its partner associations—Operation HOPE and Trinity Washington University—as well as current and former WHF Foundation leadership and the many volunteers who have contributed to the success of the WHF Foundation over the last two decades.

Press Release

The WHF Foundation Partnership Grants Program continues to demonstrate the commitment of WHF members who volunteer their time and talent to support the WHF Foundation mission, as well as individuals and organizations who make significant financial contributions. Over the last 20 years the WHF Foundation has contributed more than \$600,000 to local organizations through more than 125 grants and volunteers have conducted more than 230 financial literacy sessions. In addition to Good Shepherd Housing, other recent recipients of the WHF Foundation Partnership Grants are: Bridges to Independence (Arlington, Virginia), Calvary Women's Services (Washington, DC), Doorways for Women and Families (Arlington, VA), Interfaith Works (Montgomery County, MD), and Open Arms Housing (Washington, DC).

Other special events will follow through December of 2017, including a reception in September. More information about these special events, as well as information on grant recipients, is available [here](#).

###

***About the WHF Foundation:** A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to: (1) Develop personal finance counseling programs to enhance the financial empowerment of low-income women or other at-risk individuals; (2) Provide partnership grants to organizations that provide services to women and their families in the Washington, D.C. area; (3) Coordinate volunteer activities of Women in Housing and Finance members benefiting community groups, especially in the areas of housing and women's concerns; and (4) Create an internship or scholarship program for women students interested in the fields of housing and finance. For more information, please visit the WHF Foundation's website at www.whfdc.org/foundation.*