

# Community Development Programs

Community development programs take place on-site where our residents live and offer a pathway for academic achievement and family economic stability. Having the programs on-site allows us to creatively address challenges often prevalent in low-income communities. Whether through partnerships with tenant associations and cooperatives or the provision of on-going community-based resident service programs, NHT-Enterprise is committed to empowering residents, enhancing the quality of life for all residents, and strengthening communities.

## Overview

### Tutoring & Youth Development Programs

Our tutoring initiative supports nearly 200 children in grades 1-8. The initiative meets for up to 20 hours per week during the school year and up to 30 hours during the summer. The summer program is especially important as it is designed to prevent summer learning loss. Research shows that children can “lose” up to a semester in reading proficiency during the long summer months.

### Asset Building and Financial Literacy Programs

We created our “Dinner, Taxes, and a Movie” pilot to improve uptake of free tax preparation services among our residents. The pilot provides transportation, lunch/dinner, and movie tickets as an incentive to encourage more residents to maximize the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC is the largest poverty fighting program in the country that incentivizes work. Our residents have received an average credit of \$1,100 over the past few years to help support transportation, education, and household needs.

### Food Security and Hunger Prevention Programs

We have created urban gardens in our communities to help prevent hunger. These gardens are built and maintained in cooperation with our residents and select community partners. We also operate food pantries in partnership with local agencies to address this important issue. A partnership with the DC Central Kitchen helps provide healthy afterschool snacks and meals to children participating in our tutoring program.



### **Case Management Programs**

Case management addresses challenges that could impact a successful tenancy in NHT- Enterprise communities. Our case manager meets with residents requiring much needed assistance to address challenges related to job loss, food, utility cut-off, late rent, etc. Our case manager worked with nearly 50 residents over the past year and helped secure thousands of dollars in charitable contributions to help residents meet emergency financial needs for food, rent, and utilities.

### **Senior Programs**

Helps seniors safely “age in place” through routine healthcare screenings and education. Our emphasis on healthcare screenings help eliminates hazards related to trips and falls and costly visits to the emergency room. Senior programming also provides opportunities for seniors to volunteer with local charities and participate in social outings.

### **Job Rediness and Workforce Development Programs**

Works with adults to develop marketable job skills. Job fairs are held onsite where our residents live to promote employment. Recent job fairs have focused on the construction and hospitality trades. The NHT-Enterprise recently received a competitive innovation grant from the Department of Employment Services (DOES) to encourage young adults 16-24 to explore careers as first responders. This innovation grant will pay participants and hourly wage and give the National Housing Trust-Enterprise an opportunity to examine new approaches for strengthening community and police relations. To support employment goals, the National Housing Trust-Enterprise also works each year with residents to identify scholarship opportunities for college and or vocational school.

### **English as Second Language Programs**

National Housing Trust-Enterprise’s unique approach to community development programs brings language education to our residents in their communities and reduce barriers to access that generally discourage many from seeking such services. Many of our residents struggle to find the time or adequate resources to become English proficient. This makes alleviating chronic unemployment difficult and leaves them susceptible to predatory consumer practices. Our initiative provides literacy support for residents living in our Washington, DC communities. Residents meet for up to four hours per week with a certified English as Second Language instructor to gain essential language skills.

### **Healthy Living and Urban Gardening Programs**

Activities are centered around our urban gardens, educating residents about chronic disease prevention and weight loss, and providing tutorials on diet and exercise. Our Friendship Court urban garden is one of the largest of its kind serving an affordable housing community. Our Friendship Court urban garden feeds nearly 60 residents on a regular basis and helps them save almost \$21 on their average grocery bill. Our nursing pilot at Hazel Hill provides education and awareness programming for nearly 300 residents at Hazel Hill. An onsite nurse offers transportation to help residents meet doctor appointments, counsels residents on responsible prescription usage and first aid issues, and coordinates healthy cooking demonstrations to promote better nutrition for adults and children.

