

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

*A year of women's reentry services that created stability and self-sufficiency for justice-involved women and their families.*



We help foster  
*hope &*

*Specializing in women's reentry support, creating  
stability and self-sufficiency for the entire family*

*Learn more at [cflsdc.org](http://cflsdc.org)*



# Success



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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S *Welcome Message*



Dear Friends:

Community Family Life Services has been rising to the occasion for 52 years, and the last fiscal year was no different. 2021 will be remembered as a year of much change and uncertainty for female returning citizens and communities facing homelessness. Still, the core principles that guide the work of Community Family Life Services in how we care for the community remain the same, no matter the landscape. We will pursue the dignity and worth of the whole person, meeting them where they are and focus on individuals and families. Additionally, we prioritize the development of our staff and providers, as well as equipping our clients to succeed in self-advocacy.

Although the 2021 landscape presented challenges at every turn, I remain both humbled and proud of what our staff, partners and hundreds of supporters have helped us to achieve, collectively. They have all been rising to the occasion.

One of which was the need to simplify how our services were understood by clients while ensuring unwavering quality. We created the Planning For Success Roadmap, a descriptive and easy-to-read visual outline that takes the community on a journey through the offerings of CFLS. The many points of entry are clearly defined and have ample resources for those needing them. This roadmap serves as a handy resource guide for clients, but also for general community members, and those connected to the populations who we serve the most.

The Speakers Bureau continues to be one of CFLS's flagship programs, and we have increased the graduates to 71, 22 of which completed the program during the 2021 fiscal year. Our Employment Services have served more than 338 clients and expanded our virtual offerings in this area as we continued to push through the COVID-19 pandemic. CFLS believes that it's not just enough to offer programs of need, but we must ensure the access to those programs. This is indeed rising to the occasion.

Our Legal Services Department has been consistent in removing barriers and helping our clients preserve their individual freedom and maintain the necessary resources to live stable lives on their own and for their families. The new 'Know Your Rights' program conducted 26 seminars, 12 were offered to the general public and 14 specifically to residents at the Fairview Residential Reentry Center. These seminars help to demystify legal topics for the community. I'm excited for you to read some of the legal success stories we've included in the report - these stories are from real clients and undoubtedly bring home the magnitude of our work in how lives are being changed.

For both Thanksgiving and Christmas, we work to ensure families have ample food and all of the accoutrements that we all desire to enjoy. Just last year, we distributed 175 turkeys and 130 baskets for Thanksgiving Holiday and provided gifts to more than 300 adults and children for the holidays. From housing and financial resources, to HIV Early Intervention Services and our robust offerings for parents, CFLS has been proud to rise to the occasion and show up in the ways our clients need us most.

We have truly accomplished our mission over the past year. It has been challenging, but we never lost hope nor strayed from our purpose in being committed to serving our clients and the greater community. We understand that many times these challenges—from the COVID-19 pandemic and job loss to the economic crises and seeing record numbers of homelessness—affect vulnerable populations most, like the ones we serve, disproportionately. Still, we rise to the occasion. And we have the community to thank for that.

Finally, we sincerely hope that you will join us on September 22, 2022, for our 4th Annual Visible Voices Fundraiser, which is set to be our biggest yet. We have commissioned the creation of a film telling the stories of three of our clients and the work CFLS has done to help change their lives and others. The film will premiere at the event and will take attendees on a deeper journey with us. If you are a current supporter, we thank you for trusting us with this important work. If you are a future supporter, we invite you to join us hand-in-hand in rising to the occasion and helping to change the lives of women near and far.

With gratitude,

*Ashley McSwain*

*Executive Director, Community Family Life Services*

# About Us

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## VISION

CFLS envisions a world that through supporting successful reintegration of justice-involved women, we will reduce incidents of domestic violence, decrease homelessness and increase family stability.

## MISSION

- Support the needs of female returning citizens both before, during and after incarceration
- Provide services to alleviate homelessness and overcome barriers to reintegration
- Educate our internal and external stakeholders
- Identify and raise resources for our clients and the work of CFLS

## VALUES

- The dignity and worth of the whole person
- Meeting people where they are
- Focus on individuals and families
- Self-care and professional development for our staff, and community service providers
- Reading, writing and literacy as a core to clients becoming their own advocates

# Meet the CFLS TEAM



*Thank you to our dedicated staff*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Gary Randolph, Chair*  
Business Consultant

*Mannone A. Butler, Esq., Vice Chair*  
National Basketball Social Justice Coalition

*Wolfgang Schaefer, President*  
Georgetown International

*Derek Ford, Treasurer*  
Washington, DC Economic Partnership

*Deema Tarazi, Esq.*  
American Diabetes Association

*Yvette Ross Kane*  
Washington Housing Conservancy

*Ashley McSwain, LMSW, MSOD,*  
*Executive Director*  
Community Family Life Services



*for their extraordinary passion!*

## LEADERSHIP



**ASHLEY MCSWAIN,  
LMSW, MSOD**

Executive  
Director



**ERIN  
CALLOWAY**

Director of  
Community Initiatives



**SHENA  
MCFADDEN, MS**

Director of  
Housing



**KATHERINE  
RUSSELL**

Director of Reentry &  
Victim Services

# Our Supporters

Through the generous support from our partners, CFLS is able to meet the needs of each individual who comes through our doors. The grants and financial support that we receive have brought in new and creative programs such as our reentry housing initiative, our newly revamped computer space and literacy program and supports us to sustain the programs that keep on making a difference within the community. We continue to offer opportunities for organizations to get involved in ways that best align with the values and goals of the company while meeting our clients' needs. On behalf of our staff, volunteers and those we serve, we thank you for your continued and consistent support and generosity.

**The Ron Morgan Endowment** allows us to meet the needs of our clients by empowering them to focus on building long-term self-sufficiency for themselves and their families.



## IN MEMORIAM

**Raymond James (\$148,446.30 bequest)** created a legacy of compassion and commitment to service with his gift, ensuring that CFLS continues to support women returning home and their families on their journeys to self-reliance. We are profoundly grateful to Mr. James for his generous bequest to CFLS.

For information on how you can create your own legacy and invest in the future of CFLS please contact Robin Edwards at [redwards@cflsdc.org](mailto:redwards@cflsdc.org) or 202-864-6298. Thank you.

# Media Campaigns

## PASSPORT TO SUCCESS

The Passport to Success commercial aired on the FOX 5 channel beginning November 30th and concluded on December 31st and was aired for 44 spots. The commercial resulted in 1,175,400 impressions meaning that the commercial reached 1,175,400 households demonstrating the reach of the marketing.



Mobile App: In addition to the Passport to Success commercial we also advertised the Passport to Success through ads on buses and bus routes frequented by our priority population. These advertisements have garnered 375,118 Impressions and 1,822 clicks.



## DO YOU WANT A QUICKIE?

Our billboard advertising our “Do you want a quickie?” campaign was posted between March and April 2021 and it garnered 1.6 million impressions.

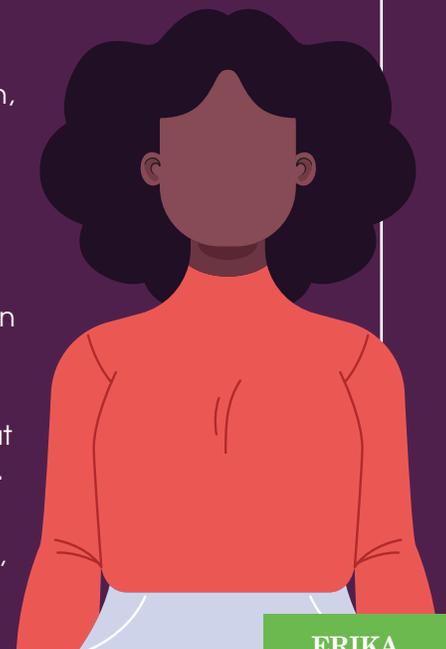
## Client Story

For three years, Erika lived in Trinity housing after being released from incarceration. She dedicated herself to using the resources available through CFLS to change her life. She learned how to care for her health, both physical and mental, and how to manage her finances. She received employment training and help with job placement.

But most importantly, she learned how to trust herself—developing the skills and confidence to take her first step toward independence. In August 2019, Erika moved into her own apartment and started a job where she was quickly promoted to supervisor. She travelled out of town regularly for work—with the enthusiastic support of her parole officer.

Using the money management skills she learned with CFLS, she saved \$4,000—a cushion that she was able to preserve, even as the world shut down due to COVID-19 and Erika went several months without working.

Today, Erika is financially stable, has stayed in her apartment, and is always one month ahead on her rent. Her story is a success for anyone, let alone someone who only five years ago was incarcerated.



ERIKA

# PLANNING for SUCCESS

*The journey through CFLS.*

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

- DC Department of Corrections/Correctional Treatment Facility
- The READY Center (The Resources to Empower and Develop You)
- The Mayor's Office of Returning Citizens Affairs
- Fairview Halfway House
- Department of Behavioral Health
- Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
- Bureau of Prisons
- HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration
- Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency

START

## Women's Reentry Services

### DROP-IN SERVICES

- Starter Kits
- Food/Clothing
- Access to Computers
- Tokens
- Birth Certificates
- HIV Testing/101

### HOUSING

- Reentry
- Domestic Violence
- Financial Literacy (provides scattered-site housing support)
- Single Room Occupancy (for single adults - Milestone Place)
- Transitional (for reentry women with a history of substance use - Nannie Helen and Kimi Gray)

### EMPLOYMENT

- Entrepreneurship Development/Support
- Individual Skill Building
- Employment Partnerships
- Employment Training

## REFERRAL SOURCE

- Halfway House
- Community Based Organizations
- Jail or Prison

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- DC Department of Corrections/Correctional Treatment Facility
- The READY Center (The Resources to Empower and Develop You)
- The Mayor's Office of Returning Citizens Affairs
- Fairview Halfway House
- Department of Behavioral Health
- Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
- Bureau of Prisons
- HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration
- Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency

## PARENTING

- 12-Week Training
- One-on-one Home Visitation
- Children's Nook

## LEGAL SERVICES

- Education
- Court Representation
- Informed Referrals
- Sentence Computations



# Community Services

## WELLNESS

- Early Intervention Services
- Risk Reduction Services
- HIV Prevention and Awareness
- HIV Testing

## MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT

- Non-medical/Housing Case Management
- Nutrition/Wellness
- Treatment Adherence

## SPEAKERS BUREAU

- Paid Public Speaking Training
- Paid Engagements
- Healing & Community Building
- Community Education

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Lunch & Learn Series
- Jail/Prison Inside Workshops
- Community Workshops

## VIRTUAL SERVICES

- Virtual Case Management
- Virtual Clothing Closet
- Passport to Success



# Outcomes

- Reduction in Recidivism
- Reduced Incidents of Domestic Violence
- Secure & Safe Housing
- Improved Quality of Life

- Improved Mental Health
- Knowledge of Community Resources
- Ongoing Sobriety
- Identified Support Systems

- Improved Physical Health
- Adequate Employment
- Removal of Identified Barriers
- Financial Literacy



# Reentry & Victim Services

## OVERVIEW

To support women returning home following a period of incarceration, that improves their quality of life by providing a continuum of care. The continuum of care leads to permanent housing, employment, healthy parental relationships and mental and physical health support.

CFLS helps its clients find long-term housing and financial stability. We provide a safe space so clients can rediscover their own self-worth and develop new habits that reinforce self-love and self-care to reduce recidivism and incidents of abuse and incarceration.



## SUCCESSES

*332 Clients*  
Served through  
the Drop-In Center

## DROP-IN CENTER

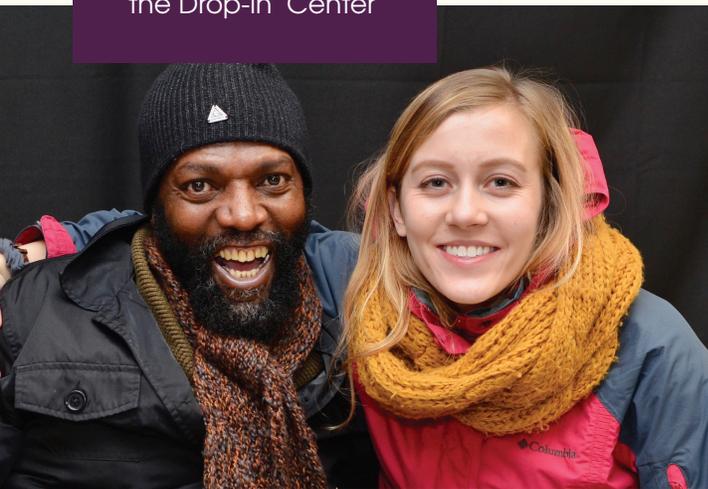
CFLS provides emergency food and clothing to homeless and low-income families and individuals, as well as women returning home from a period of incarceration. Our Drop-in Center serves clients in our programs with immediate and unexpected needs and caters to those with short term needs who may not need ongoing case management.

Reentry women (released from jail or prison within the past 6 months) are particularly encouraged to “drop in” to receive an HIV test, access hygiene items, use our clothing closet, and get connected with our broader services.

## Services Rendered By Type

*\*Note: Clients are duplicated across these services; numerous clients received more than one service through the Drop-in Center.*

Type of Service	# of interactions
Birth Certificate Vouchers	7
Computer Lab	25
Transportation Assistance	148
ID Vouchers	8
Clothing Distribution	111
Food Distribution	372



## STARTER KITS

The most critical time of a woman's reentry are the days immediately following her release. Often women who do not have stable housing or a supportive network upon their release, return to tenuous situations that lead back to abuse or cause recidivism. CFLS's goal is to create a reliable supportive community that clients can turn to in their moments of need.



## SUCCESSSES

*41 Starter Kits*

Distributed

Last year we launched this initiative in partnership with the **DC Department of Corrections (DOC), READY Center (Resources to Empower and Develop You), Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), DC Reentry Action Network, Fairview Halfway House, Federal Bureau of Prisons, House of Ruth, Jubilee Housing,** and **Thrive DC** to provide women returning home from DOC a Starter Kit containing the essential tools needed to thrive. After its first year (launched in October 2020), we are pleased with its success!

It is important to highlight that the Starter Kits will equip clients with a laptop and the necessary technology to participate in ongoing virtual programming. With this investment, CFLS is able to expand our service offerings virtually with the ultimate goal is to serve clients just as we would in person.

## *Client Story (in her own words)*

"I have been a part of this program since November 2020. I was not optimistic in the beginning because I thought it was just another program that needed numbers, however, I was wrong. I met Ms. Shepherd and I was able to sit down, talk, cry and express what I was feeling after being incarcerated. Ms. Shepherd made the environment safe for me. She listened and shared stories of her past experiences with me also, the Starter Kit program has been very beneficial for my transition.

I was able to look for jobs and participate in mandatory workshops from the halfway house with the laptop that was provided to me through the Starter Kit program. I was given fare cards and financial assistance to get clothing and shoes for interviews while being on home confinement. This was not easy in the beginning, however, this program and working with CFLS has made it a breeze. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of a program. I believe all ladies returning from incarceration need a Starter Kit."



BETTY

# Speakers Bureau

## OVERVIEW

The stigma of incarceration is deeply entrenched in our society, and we recognize that changing public perception – and our clients' own limiting personal beliefs – takes a village. Our clients' negative personal beliefs are often informed and exacerbated by the systemic prejudice rampant in our society. CFLS recognizes our opportunity to educate the community while breaking down stereotypes and opening a dialogue for understanding, healing and change.

The CFLS Speakers Bureau provides a platform for survivors of trauma such as domestic violence, human trafficking, and incarceration to learn public speaking skills, progress in their healing journey, and become agents of change. Members of the Speakers Bureau communicate their lived experiences to educate lawmakers, service providers, law enforcement, nonprofits, private organizations, and community stakeholders.

We offer a 7-session paid public speaking training to women who have experienced domestic violence, incarceration, human trafficking, and other trauma. Participants must demonstrate a desire to share their stories in order to elevate their communities and advocate for causes important to them.

## HIGHLIGHTS

We held **five Women Centric Criminal Justice Discussions** on a variety of topics including Reentry Entrepreneurship, the criminalization of Sex Trafficking Survivors, and the intersection between domestic violence and immigration.

At the end of September, **four of our members were selected to host a session** for the International Coalition of Children with Incarcerated Parents Annual Conference.

**14 members of the Speakers Bureau testified before the DC City Council** as part of the FY 2022 budget process to share their stories with the criminal justice system, housing insecurity, and other issues that were important to them.



## SUCCESSSES

This year, we've trained  
*2 Cohorts with  
25 Graduates*

*52 Active  
Members*

*186 Speaking  
Engagements*

*Earned \$20,612*

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Since the program's  
start, we've trained  
*71 Women*

We held **five support groups led by members** throughout COVID focusing on the following topics: Dive Into Self Care, Working Under Pressure, Grief and Growth, Valuing Oneself, Be Encouraged and Continue Striving.

**Four Professional Development sessions** were held on the following topics: How to Advocate, Panel and Interview Prep, Networking, and Testifying Before DC City Council.

## MORE THAN CONFERENCE

On August 24-25, CFLS hosted a conference on the intersection of domestic violence and incarceration, featuring 34 speakers, a mix of survivors with lived experiences and professionals working in advocacy. The MORE THAN Conference to educate social workers, advocates, and others on the intersection between justice involvement and domestic violence.

Our keynote was Pulitzer Prize-awardee Susan Chira of The Marshall Project. We consulted with our partners at DCCADV in the planning process to learn about what issues they wanted to learn more about, and additionally the conference content was guided by a panel of survivors who met with us monthly. We offered complimentary tickets to some of our domestic violence partners who helped us identify gaps in their understanding of this topic.



2021  
**MORE THAN**  
CONFERENCE  
August 24-25

**EXPERT**  
SPEAKERS

**EVENT SUCCESS**  
*82 Registered Attendees*  
*80 CEUs provided*

4TH ANNUAL  
*Visible Voices*  
JOIN US SEPTEMBER 23 AT 6:30PM  
for a virtual journey through stories of  
resilience, courage, and empowerment.



## VISIBLE VOICES FUNDRAISER

At our virtual 4th Annual CFLS Visible Voices Fundraiser held on September 23, we led attendees on a journey through stories of resilience, courage, and empowerment. We introduced women of the CFLS Speakers Bureau who wove together their accounts from domestic violence and prison to rising against the odds.

We are all connected to the reality of these women's experiences.

**EVENT SUCCESS**  
*\$1,012 raised*



## EXTERNAL MEMBER SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

1. D.C.'s Probation System: An alternative to mass incarceration or a leading cause?
2. Public Policy Exchange's *Tackling Homelessness Nationally: Adapting Services and Improving Housing Options*
3. Oh Mother of Mine documentary filming by Anna Rawls
4. MPD Accountability and Oversight Committee Forum
5. Fairgirls TRUTH Conference
6. Fairview Halfway House
7. Police Reform Commission
8. Friends Meeting of Washington
9. Cynthia Jones American University Law School Class
10. Interfaith Action for Human Rights Webinar
11. Georgetown Panel: Black Women and Criminal (In) justice
12. Catholic University Social Work Class: Ashley McSwain
13. Junior League of Washington Homelessness Seminar
14. DC Council Testimony-Committee on Human Services, Child and Family Services Agency
15. DC Council Testimony- Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
16. Reentry Action Network
17. DC Council Testimony-Committee of the Whole (DCPS)
18. DC Council Testimony-Committee of the Whole (DCPS)
19. DC Justice Lab Video Interview
20. Georgetown Police for Tomorrow
21. Georgetown Knowledge Panel - Incarceration/Sex Trafficking
22. Georgetown Knowledge Panel - Religion and Medicine
23. Georgetown Knowledge Panel - Medical Advocacy
24. Grace Vitaglione American University Interview
25. Catholic University Nonprofit Management Class: Ashley McSwain
26. Crime Victims Bill Testimony: Judiciary Committee
27. Thrive DC Returning Citizens Survey
28. DC City Council Testimony: Eviction Bill Hearing
29. Speakers Bureau Support Group: Be Encouraged and Continue Striving
30. DC City Council Budget Hearing Committee of the Whole: DCPS
31. DC City Council Budget Hearing: Committee on the Judiciary-OVSJG
32. National Center for Victims of Crime Interview
33. Thrive DC ACT Campaign
34. CSOSA Sex Trafficking Workshop: American Probation and Parole Association Conference
35. NJ Reentry Corporation Women in Criminal Justice Journal: Poetry, Essay, and Picture
36. New Jersey Reentry Corporation Women in Criminal Justice Journal: Essay
37. Public Policy Exchange: Homelessness Forum
38. Deno Seder Homelessness Book Research Interview
39. DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence Survivor Listening Sessions
40. Council for Court Excellence: Confusion and Exclusion: Impacts of the Hazy State of D.C. Marijuana Legalization
41. International Coalition of Children with Incarcerated Parents Annual Conference

## SUCCESSSES

### *18 Families*

Served by the Trinity Arms Housing Program

### *11 Women*

Served by the Financial Literacy Housing Programs

### *5 Women*

Served by the Nannie Helen Housing Program

## OVERVIEW

CFLS provides a comprehensive continuum of transitional housing for homeless women and families; and single room housing for previously homeless adults with low income. We serve single women and women with children who have been released from prison or jail within the last year or are within four months of being released. These programs are part of our interconnected web of services providing a safe, secure, and supportive place to live while our clients receive the supports and services they need to rebuild their lives.

## FINANCIAL LITERACY HOUSING PROGRAM

Our Financial Literacy Housing Program provides scattered-site housing to reentry women and survivors of domestic violence who are single or have children. For the first two months, we cover the full rent and utilities, and then each subsequent month over the course of a year, the client becomes more and more responsible for a portion of rent. With the help of a financial literacy coach, clients learn how to budget and create a savings account, and the goal is for clients to have financial stability in order to permanently maintain their housing once they are exited from the program. Clients in this program also receive support from our therapist, employment team, and other resources where needed. Clients access this program through our partner organizations and internal referral process after working with our reentry or domestic violence case manager.

- Served **11 women** who have **saved a collective total of \$101,628.75**
- Hosted **6 four-week sessions of the financial literacy boot camp**
- Provided financial literacy **coaching to 4 Trinity Arms clients and 22 Milestone Place clients**
- **51 community clients** received financial literacy coaching





## MILESTONE PLACE

Milestone Place was established as a single room occupancy (SRO) residence facility for previously homeless single adults with low income. Residents share common spaces including a lounge, dining areas, kitchens and bathrooms. We provide 24-hour security surveillance with an electronic front door. Through this location, CFLS provides affordable temporary housing for 35 single adults, many of whom are veterans in need of intensive case management. In addition to intensive case management, Milestone residents receive substance abuse counseling, relapse prevention support, employment counseling and access to emergency services.

- Served 40 clients through our SRO housing program. 4 of them were HOPWA clients
- Organized activities offered to Milestone clients:
  - Relapse Prevention group
  - Trauma Informed Recovery group
  - End of life planning
  - Voting Information Session
  - Wellness and Self-Care group
  - Exercise class

We help create  
*stability &  
self-sufficiency*



# Housing Stories



KAMILA

Kamila successfully completed our Women's Reentry and Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Program. She recently started paying her own rent directly to the property management company and even pays early! With ARPA funds, Kamila was able to purchase a living room set, and with the money she saved, she paid off her credit card. When she entered the program, she was denied even a secure credit card, but was approved. That card has since been transitioned to an unsecured credit card. Kamila was also able to purchase a car with cash, so she doesn't have a car loan. Today, her credit score is in the 700s and she has several thousand dollars saved. We are so proud of Kamila's success!

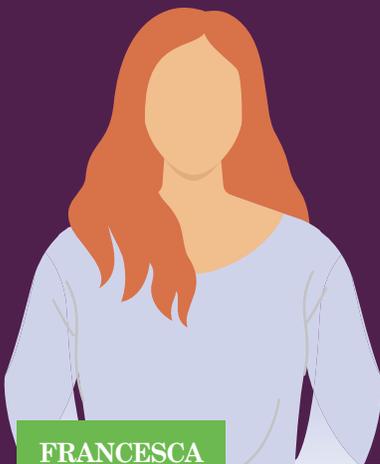
Gary, one of our HOPWA clients, was incarcerated for over 20 years and released under compassionate release during the COVID-19 pandemic. While incarcerated, he obtained his GED and began reading and studying law. Once released, Gary began interning at a law firm supporting those returning home from incarceration. He was recently hired by this law firm to work as a full-time Paralegal. We are so proud of Gary!



GARY

Francesca has an eviction on her rental history that she worked very hard to remove. She has documentation showing that it was paid off, but was unfortunately denied for 12 apartments, all citing her previous eviction. Francesca has a full-time job as a teacher's assistant and a second job to help build her savings. She also works with our new Underground Employment Program as an entrepreneur making jewelry, candles, and other items. Francesca spends many weekends participating in vendor fairs and has a robust online presence.

Francesca's housing search took seven months, but through the process of several denials, she continued to meet and exceed her goals. She saved over \$7,000 by the time she found housing. Francesca stated that she has never in her life had money saved. Francesca even testified before DC Council to share her housing search experiences and to advocate for housing opportunities for other District residents. Through a partnership with a private landlord formed by the CFLS Financial Literacy Coach, she located housing and moved in April 2021. Francesca and her two children now have a safe place to call their own with the goal of eventual home ownership. We are so proud of Francesca!



FRANCESCA

Shana spent seven years incarcerated and eight months at the halfway house. In November 2020, she started working full time and has received three promotions. Shana joined the CFLS Financial Literacy Housing Program in February 2021. CFLS assisted her with locating an apartment and she was able to move out of the halfway house in mid-April. Shana has been able to save \$11,800, purchase a car, and is happily settled in her apartment.

Shana's full-time employment and stable housing have brought her closer to regaining custody of her son—by the end of the summer, they were reunited and she was granted joint custody. It had been more than seven years since her son had spent a night with his mother. We are so proud of Shana!



SHANA

# HIV-related Services

## SUCCESSSES

### *18 Clients*

Received Housing Through HOPWA; 4 Transitioned to Permanent Housing

### *51 Clients*

Received Medical Case Management Services; 3 Transitioned to Permanent Housing

### *30 Women*

Attended Wellness Retreat

### *24 Virtual Events + 14 In-Person Events*

That Focused on HIV Testing and Sex Education

### *213 HIV Tests Done*

### *74 Case Managers & Clients*

Using the Passport to Success Mobile App

## OVERVIEW

Through our Early Intervention Services we target at risk individuals and justice involved women through a comprehensive continuum of women's reentry programming. A period of incarceration has a tremendous impact on one's ability to effectively manage their health, so we offer education, testing, and linking to wellness and health care. Our goal is to reach as many as possible, teach all who will listen, test everyone in need, link to services that will guide, and keep clients connected to care. We are committed to client engagement to ensure adherence to treatment.

**DC | HEALTH** The CFLS Early Intervention Services initiative is made possible with support from the District of Columbia Department of Health HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration (HAHSTA).

## MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT

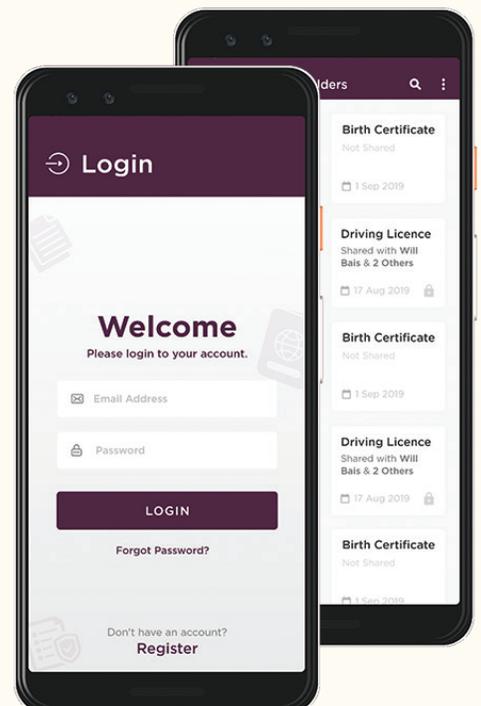
CFLS provides 18-month housing and case management for individuals that are infected with HIV/AIDS, including returning citizens. Case managers support clients in locating permanent housing opportunities, managing treatment and medical care adherence, assist with client education and work with other programs in Washington, DC to facilitate a healthy transition to a state of self-sufficiency.

## HOPWA PROGRAM

Through the CFLS HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) program, we serve individuals with HIV/AIDS by supporting them and addressing barriers to access services.

## PASSPORT TO SUCCESS APP

The "Passport to Success" is a tool that gives clients control of their own data and thus their own journey to success. Clients who have experienced domestic violence, or who are homeless or who have been to prison or jail often do not have current information to facilitate their forward movement. The Passport App allows clients to store information in one place, creating opportunities for them to address their own needs and gives them the power and confidence to take control of their journey with their case managers by their side, as their partner.





## REIS (REGIONAL EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES)

*Women’s Wellness Retreat* is an 8-week curriculum-based program aimed to support and educate women about health/wellness related topics. Trained and certified facilitators are paired with clients each week to teach and aid clients through skills that will promote healthy behaviors and decisions. The women participate in a series of courses over 8 weeks that provide knowledge on nutrition, life skills, self-care, finance, mental health, and fitness.



*HIV Prevention Virtual Workshops* engage with a number of topics including HIV risk reduction and prevention, STDs 101, nutrition, and self-esteem/confidence building. With an average of 12 participants, these groups not only serve to teach women about how to protect themselves from HIV and other STDs, but also serve as a safe space for participants to reflect on their goals, dreams, and work to better themselves.

*Virtual Safer Sex Parties* provide participants with information about safer sex practices and how to keep themselves healthy. Food is also ordered for every participant.

*In-Person Safer Sex Parties* promote awareness of HIV/AIDS risk reduction and prevention. The Safer Sex and Testing Parties featured guest speakers like representatives from Whitman-Walker providing further information on safer sex practices, as well as a certified Hepatitis-C tester to increase awareness of Hepatitis-C prevention, symptoms, care management, and treatment options.

*Beat The Streets Outreach* was a series of 6 events facilitated through MPD, which allowed different community organizations to provide street outreach and resources to individuals all around DC. At these events, we not only tested individuals for HIV, but also provided literature regarding health education and STI prevention, distributed Narcan, and advertised other CFLS services.

# Parenting Programs

## PARENT EDUCATION & HOME VISITOR'S PROGRAM

Our evidence-based curriculum, Nurturing Skills for Families, is a 12-week Intervention (bi-weekly or weekly) program designed for those families that are most at risk for child abuse and neglect. This program has proven to effectively treat and prevent the recurrence of child abuse and neglect. The program was designed to support the stability of the District of Columbia's most at-risk families living in Wards 5, 6, 7 and 8. In addition to homeless mothers and domestic violence, we target incarcerated mothers and support them as they reunite with their children given the unique, all-encompassing and gender-specific needs that they require.



### SUCCESSSES

*58 parents, 15 Prison Reentry and Justice-Affected Families and 58 Low-Income Families*

Served During the 2021 Calendar Year

*74 Parents*  
Completed the Parent Education Classes and Participated in Home Visits

We also believe that providing opportunities to be part of social events for families has been an additional avenue for social connection, social support and role modeling.

Through close relationships between CFLS case managers and participating families, we are able to provide knowledge on parenting and child development, a safe social connection, social skills and counseling interventions. CFLS has longstanding collaborations and partnerships with the following government agencies and community-based organizations:

- CSOSA
- DC Diaper Bank
- Fairview Halfway House
- Jubilee Housing (Spanish speaking parents)
- My Sister's Place
- DC Kincaid Alliance
- House of Ruth



*We pair parent education sessions with home visits to build strong relationships with parents and to establish nurturing parenting skills.*

## PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT: JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WASHINGTON

Our community partner the **Junior League of Washington** provided **CFLS with a total of 180 reading books and academic subject workbooks** to distribute to our parents promoting enrichment activities during the summer months to support retention learning for their children. Adult reading books were provided to parents for their enjoyment of self-care.

### VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

We provided parenting videos to the **DC Department of Correction's** Treatment Facility Learning Management System Pilot Program – Women's Programming Tablets. Parenting videos for tablets topics included:

- Stress & Anxiety – COVID-19
- The Importance of Reading Bedtime Stories
- Positive Words of Affirmation for Mothers
- Writing Letters to Your Children

Parenting videos were also provided to the **Bureau of Federal Prisons.**

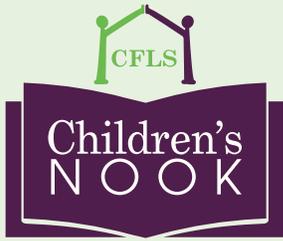
Maintaining our connections and facilitating parenting lessons byway of technology devices (tablets) to the incarcerated women fosters good mental health and strengthens their family bond with their children during the pandemic. We received positive tablet feedback from the women at the jails.

### CANDID PARENTING CONVERSATION SERIES

This series of virtual parenting conversations is a forum that provides an opportunity for parents to come together to express their parenting concerns and navigating through the age of COVID-19 and social injustices in our local communities and the nation. CLFS empowers parents to have life-changing conversations with their children, family, and the community.



**We hosted two events and welcomed our expert panel of speakers** Dr. Niyana Rasayon, Dr. Annette Miles, and Dr. Nathalie Mizelle from UDC. The Candid Parenting Conversation Series is in partnership with the University of the District of Columbia.



## CHILDREN'S NOOK

The CFLS Children's Nook is a read-aloud program for children impacted by family trauma and incarceration. The read-aloud program is an on-line academic resource for children to foster reading and can be used as a learning tool to help parents. The read-a-loud is ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes in length. This program runs concurrently with the DCPS school year for 2020-2021.

During the calendar year, we held three reading sessions with 6 volunteers reading 6 books.

## RAGBABY EXCHANGE PROJECT

The Ragbaby Exchange Project uses doll making (your inner doll) as a tool in the development of self-esteem. The curriculum promotes improve self-esteem and gives specific steps to creating a doll in the participants' image from the inside out, helping each participant release negative self-talk and replace it with positive affirmations. **The Ragbaby Project – "Abayomi Doll, an Affirmation of Self Love" had 32 women participate** and was facilitated at the following parenting sites:

- Trinity Arms
- Fairview Halfway House
- Griffin House
- Olaiya's Cradle
- Fairview Halfway House



## BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

On August 20, 2021, we held our Annual Back to School Drive. **Our gracious donors contributed \$2,714 in school supplies via our Amazon and Walmart registries.** We are also grateful for the major contributions from organizations such as Allen & Overy LLP, the German Lutheran Church based in Bethesda, Maryland, and individual monetary contributions made via our website and by check. We were thrilled to have a group of volunteers from American University assist us with preparations for the Back to School Drive. On the day of the event, we were assisted by one of our esteemed volunteers Liz Choromanski, who helped with setting up and distributing the backpacks. **Overall, we served over 50 clients and distributed over 70 backpacks to students.** We had a surplus of items and were able to distribute extra backpacks to the community.

## OVERVIEW

Our Employment Program offers services to assist our clients to reach their long-term goals of achieving quality employment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we enhanced our programs with virtual offerings in order to address the barriers that they face when reintegrating into society after a period of incarceration. Services include:



- Assisting clients with implementing effective employment search strategies
- Employment clinics for resume writing, developing interview skills with mock interviewing, discussing background checks and drug testing, and teaching basic computer literacy
- Writing resumes and developing career portfolios
- Facilitating career management and career decision-making workshops
- Working closely with new hire clients to ensure job retention and monthly outreach throughout the community

CFLS engages with local businesses and community organizations in order to secure employment opportunities for clients. In 2021, we had a total of 38 employer partners. By maintaining these relationships and monitoring trends in the workplace, CFLS helps clients move toward a better future.

*Employment is one of the single most influential predictors that a person who has been incarcerated will remain out of prison.*



**SUCCESSSES**

*106 Clients*  
Received Intensive Case Management

*49 Clients*  
Received Interviews

*49 Clients*  
Landed Jobs

*63 Employers*  
in our Job Bank

# Holiday Programs

## THANKSGIVING BASKET DRIVE

Each year during the Thanksgiving holiday, we give families a decadent food basket with all the necessary items for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. This year was an amazing success thanks to community partnerships, generous donors and dedicated volunteers!

- We partnered with PUSO to **give away 175 turkeys** to CFLS clients as well as clients of Eleven64 Senior Apartments, Mary's Center, Community Connections, YMCA, Shaods and Miracles (Rashaod Crosson's Group), and CCNV Shelter.
- Gave away **130 baskets** of sides/fixings
- **11 families** from our Parenting Program received Thanksgiving Baskets



## SUCSESSES

*130 Thanksgiving Baskets Distributed*

*175 Turkeys Distributed*

# HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE

For our Adopt-A-Family Program we created a wishlist that fits each family's needs. Participants were welcomed to personally shop for their adopted family, or, make a monetary donation towards our drive.



**SUCCESSES**  
*152 Adults and  
 154 Children Gifted*

# CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

A total of 26 families (clients) with a total of 60 children signed up for the CFLS Wish List from the Parenting Program. We distributed Christmas Gift Baskets and provided our parents with an opportunity to pick out gifts for their children from our general toy donations.

Through a partnership with Ella's Kids Inc., the Parenting Program also provided the following agencies with Christmas gifts:

- Olaiya's Cradle (Sasha Bruce)
- Jubilee Housing
- Platform of Hope
- My Sister's Place
- Maya Angelou Young Adult Learning Center
- Griffin House (SOME)

# SHOP WITH A COP

Shop With A Cop on Friday, December 3 was a major success. Thank you, Sharon Daugherty and all of MPD, for your partnership in serving the community as well as your dedication and thoughtfulness in **bringing joy to two families** this Holiday Season!



# Legal Services



## SUCCESSSES

*48 Clients Served*

*72 Cases Opened*

*52 Cases Resolved*

## SEMINARS

As CFLS continued to expand the services that could be offered virtually in 2021, the Legal Department also began offering its compassion-based legal services via of series of events. Every month, we hosted a themed **“Know Your Rights” seminar** to engage directly with the community while teaching the ins and outs of various legal topics.

Seminar topics included:

- Navigating Divorce
- Understanding Child Custody and Child Support
- Expungements
- Debt Repayment
- Professional Licenses After Incarceration
- Background Checks & Discrimination

## OVERVIEW

As part of its wraparound services for reentry and justice-affected women, CFLS provides filing assistance, counsel, representation, and referral services for clients’ legal needs. Our legal department is committed to removing barriers and to the preservation of individual freedom, income stability, personal safety, housing stability, and family structures.

Some of the areas that clients have received legal services are: child support, custody, consumer issues, divorce, expungement, name change, probation issues, restraining orders, sex offender registry requirements, identity theft, outstanding warrants, and assistance with contacting the social security administration.



## EVENT SUCCESSSES

*15 “Know Your Rights” Seminars*

*114 Attendees*



AVERY

Avery was represented in her custody case at the final merits hearing by our attorney. The case became a three-way complaint as a third party intervened to help assure the stability of the children in light of the mental health needs of the parents. Our attorney was able to successfully negotiate with opposing counsel representing the third party and Avery received the custody arrangement she desired.



RYANN

Ryann is a D.C. resident, but is currently serving parole which is being monitored in Virginia. Our legal team provided advice and information on how to request a change in supervision and transfer to D.C. This will assist Ryann in reducing the multiple-hour trips that must be made weekly to Virginia to meet with the probation officer and submit to random urinalyses.



KENDALL

One major legal success was Kendall's case! Kendall came to us after being released from a 20+ year incarceration. She has four children for whom she was under court-ordered child support prior to serving her sentence. When released, child support began collection efforts for the outstanding balance. Our office provided representation to her by filing a motion to terminate her child support order, abate a portion of the arrears, and establish payment for the remaining balance. We were able to assist Kendall in abating \$22, 521.00 in back child support and she was given a payment plan for the remaining balance.



GRACE

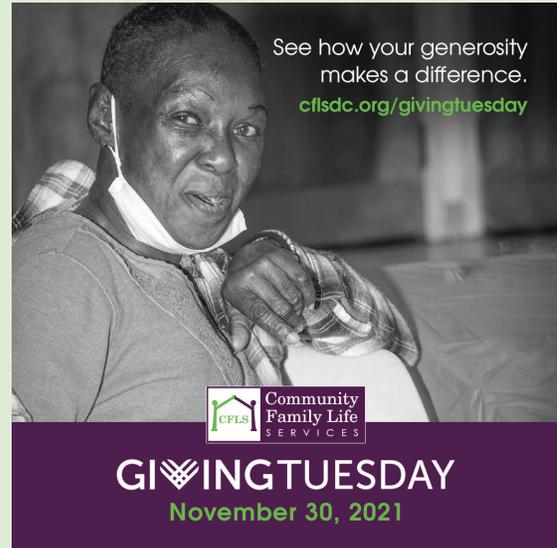
Grace came to us for assistance with obtaining a certified copy of her marriage license. The document was needed to establish her identity to complete her college enrollment. Our attorney was able to assist in getting an expedited copy and ensured Regina's enrollment was not delayed.

# Funding Highlights

## GIVING TUESDAY

The Giving Tuesday campaigns held in December of 2021 gave us a chance to prove within 24 hours that there is power in generosity. This year, we focused on generating support for our Emergency Services. We were proud to participate in the campaigns through the Catalogue for Philanthropy, a local guide to giving and capacity building for our region's small nonprofits.

*\$1,767.98 from 11 donors!*



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CAMPAIGN

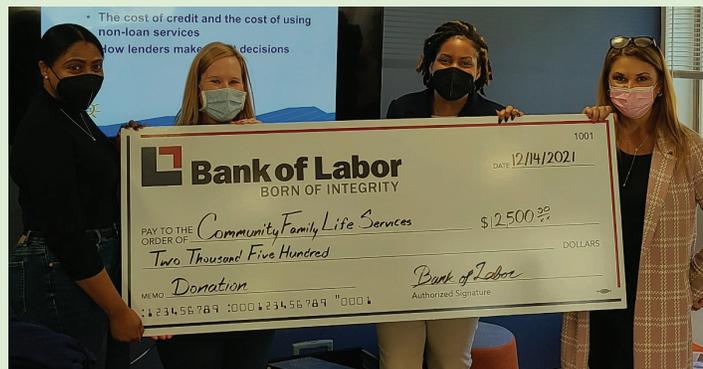
CFLS was honored to participate in World Bank's Community Connections Campaign November 1 through December 16, 2021. **During the Campaign, CFLS received pledges totaling \$11,250 from 16 donors. Donations to the Campaign were matched 100% by the World Bank Group.**



*We were able to raise a total of \$22,500!*

## BANK OF LABOR

Thank you, Bank of Labor, for your generous donation of \$2,500 to support CFLS children and families.



## IFPTE

The International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers' international staff and executive officers pooled together **more than \$1,200 in donations to assist six CFLS families in need.**

# 2021

## Financials

**\$132,418**

*Contributions  
Received Directly*

**\$777,047**

*Government Grants*

**\$72,322**

*Service Fees*

**\$981,787**

*Total Revenue*

**\$593,261**

*Total Salaries  
and Benefits*

**\$999,323**

*Total Expenses*

**\$17,536**

*Net Revenue*



## COMMUNITY FAMILY LIFE SERVICES

305 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20001

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ENGAGE WITH US



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