



— A SPECIAL UPDATE —

FEBRUARY 2023

20th Anniversary Good Person Award Recipient Nicola Hall (pictured above with her daughters, Samara and Rihanna) has celebrated 12 years as a HousingPlus tenant. A lot has happened for this wonderful family. Nicola completed her home health aide certification and is now looking for productive work. Samara is a high school track star, and Rihanna attends an accelerated education program to prepare for high school. 2023 is already gearing up to be

a landmark year for the family. They are moving into a 3-bedroom apartment - the first time the girls have ever had their own rooms. Samara heads to college - she has already been accepted to multiple universities. Rihanna begins high school. Thanks to the resources and personal investment HousingPlus offers, Nicola, Samara and Rihanna, have built a stable, supportive home – and futures full of possibilities.

20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

For the past 20 years, HousingPlus has been a leader in creating and operating housing for women and women-led families, homes from which they can build brighter futures. We are a "Housing First" model with zero barriers to entry. Housing is the first step into a world of new opportunities. Case managers, counselors, and property staff give their all each day providing foundational support to everyone. They are the HousingPlus stars. Today we have 150 units of

permanent and 140 units of transitional housing. We will increase our housing units to 470 over the next few years. That means we can open our doors to many more individuals and families who have formerly experienced homelessness, poverty, and trauma – veterans, justice-involved women, and to the many suffering from mental illness and addiction. **TWENTY** years of success is just the beginning.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 20TH YEAR

You live, you learn, and you give back. No one knows that better than Rita Zimmer, who for forty years has done just that. She founded Women In Need (WIN) and then HousingPlus. 2022 began with Rita winning the highly-selective AARP Purpose Prize. This prestigious honor is the only national award in the US celebrating people 50 and older using their life experiences to make a difference. The award included a \$50,000 gift and one year of free consulting services to help HousingPlus.

Midway through the year, we held our 20th Anniversary Good Person Awards with 100 guests at the Union League Club to recognize four extraordinarily good people: Reverend Annie Bovian, a long-time advocate for children and women in prison; Abigail Disney, Filmmaker, Activist, and Philanthropist; Nicola Hall, a tenant; and our beloved founder, Rita Zimmer.

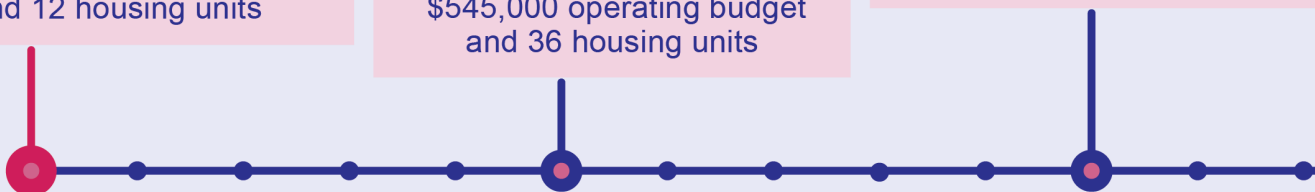
Two initiatives stand out this year. In July we received a six-year contract from the city to expand our alternative-to-detention program for criminal justice-involved women on Rikers Island - women who are detained when they can't make bail or because they are homeless. Along with our partner agencies we are adding 90 new units of housing; moving participants off Rikers Island into transitional and then permanent housing, helping to resolve their court cases, and linking them to services for their distinct needs.

In October, we celebrated the opening of Chestnut Commons, a new partnership with Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC). This new 275 unit-complex, developed over the past five years, brings many exciting opportunities to the Cypress Hills Community. We offer services to 55 of the tenants, who, once homeless, can finally say, "I have a home!".

2002
HousingPlus Founded.
 \$40,000 operating budget
 and 12 housing units

2007
 \$545,000 operating budget
 and 36 housing units

2012
 \$1.3M operating budget
 and 85 housing units



WHAT'S NEXT?

In November we joined hands with Teghvir Sethi, the principle of Spatial Equity and HousingPlus board of directors' member, to break ground on a 123 unit permanent housing project that will welcome tenants in the summer of 2024. We have one more project in the predevelopment stage - a partnership with Mutual

Housing Association of New York, on a 120 unit building next to our program offices on Atlantic Avenue. We look forward to working with our neighbors to make this vibrant, diverse East New York Brooklyn neighborhood a good place to live and raise a family.



MEET SHADEQUA HAMPTON BOARD MEMBER & TENANT

Shadequa Hampton has been a tenant since 2015 and is one of two tenants who joined our Board of Directors in 2022. A member of the US Marine Corps, Shadequa was honorably discharged in 2014, and she describes her time in the military as bittersweet. There was camaraderie, but there was also racism. Returning home, she struggled with homelessness and lived in a shelter until she heard about our permanent housing for female veterans. Stable, affordable housing made it easier to stay in school, and in May of 2021, she earned her Master's in Social Work from Fordham University. She tells us, "I hope to use my life experiences and talents to make the world a better place."

LOWE'S REDVEST VOLUNTEER DAY

HousingPlus was thrilled to have been selected as a Lowe's Hometowns Project. Through a generous grant from Lowe's, we are renovating our community center to make it ADA accessible. This project means so much to us because tenants and community members will be able to utilize the space. On November 15th, Lowe's employees held their RedVest Day at one of our residences where volunteers painted and planted flowers at the community center to bring more cheer.



2017

\$3.9M operating budget
and 136 housing units

2022

\$12.8M operating budget
and 290 housing units

BY 2027

\$27+M operating budget
and 470+ housing units



HP Tenant Traci Washington speaks to Marble Collegiate Church about HousingPlus' work and the importance of their support.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

For over 15 years, the Marble Collegiate Church leadership and congregation have generously supported us, beginning with a reasonable rent for our first office in their building - where we could “think big and start small”. Marble has provided generous grants, volunteers, and membership drives to collect holiday food and school supplies. Their partnership has been vital to our success. Early on we had the good fortune to meet Mamie McIndoe, a Marble congregant and volunteer who joined our board in 2010. This year, though stepping down as board co-chair, she has stepped up to help develop new programming for the 198 children and youth living with us.

“Keeping HP and Marble connected is one of the ways as a Board Member I can meet the needs of our growing organization and help to make the changes we are trying to make.”

- Mamie McIndoe



When you support HousingPlus you are laying the groundwork for stability, growth, and success for generations to come.

Thank you!

HOUSINGPLUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(as of February 1, 2023)

Katie Brown, Board Chair • **Sally Franklin, Secretary** • **Rosália Aquino McMillen, Treasurer**

Bonnie Bach • **Quentin Esme Brown** • **Melissa Asma Browne**

Phyllis Chillingworth • **Mary Gherty** • **Andrea Gibbs** • **Shadequa Hampton**

Katherine Maughan • **Mamie McIndoe** • **Carrissa Menendez** • **Zoe Perret** • **Alexis Perrotta**

Teghvir Sethi • **Vikram Shah** • **Myrta Vida** • **Jermaine Warren** • **Amy Wollensack**

Rita Zimmer, Founder & Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 27 - 31

HousingPlus
FITNESS CHALLENGE 2023

From March 27 to 31, 2023, corporate teams and individuals will take on the challenge to take 200,000 steps in support of the women and families served by HousingPlus.

Participants can walk, run, bike, and so much more to raise money and awareness for HousingPlus' work.

WILL YOU JOIN THE CHALLENGE THIS SPRING?

Contact: Melita@housingplus.org to sign up for updates