

# Celebrating Two

1988

Evolving from local and nationwide protest for affordable housing, Dignity Housing is incorporated by William "Chris" Sprowal, Leona Smith, and now Executive Director, Alicia Christian.

Dignity Housing begins operations as the first housing and social services program in the nation founded and guided by homeless people and activists.

The first five families move in to Dignity Housing.

Dignity hires senior management team: Alicia Christian, Executive Director, Beverly Roberts, (then) Office Manager (now Deputy Director), and Wayne E. Stokes, Director of Social Services.

1989

Dignity Tenants Council participates in "Housing Now" March in Washington, DC. HUD Secretary promises 10% of HUD foreclosed housing to homeless families and service providers.

Dignity completes renovation of 64 units of housing throughout Philadelphia.

HUD's Secretary, Jack Kemp, visits Dignity Housing calling it a "model" program for other cities.

1998

Dignity sells all five of its homeownership units, including one to tenant Ruby Harris, Dignity Scholarship Fund recipient and graduate of Beaver College.

The Center for Community Change gives Dignity Housing the Leonard Lesser Community Award.

Dignity receives 1997 HUD Super NOFA, RDA funding and PNC Affordable Housing Loan, totaling \$2 million to develop 16 units of transitional housing - Dignity II.

The first Dignity homeownership unit sold to Dignity tenant Esther Bowens. Six more properties acquired for rehab and sale in 1998.

Dignity has served more than 1,200 formerly homeless women, children and men.

Dignity finalizes plans to increase tenant supportive services in the wake of "welfare reform."

Dignity participates in the RDA Homeownership Rehab Program, completing 2 single family homes for sale to first-time buyers.

1997

1996

1999

Construction begins for the Dignity II transitional housing program.

Dignity Housing receives award announcement from HUD to implement its Enhanced Services Project servicing 59 families, and funding to renovate 5 units of housing.

Eleven Dignity families graduate and move to homeownership.

2000

Dignity II construction is completed and the first families move in.

Dignity acquires two buildings to be developed for its Dignity III Better Options for Self-sufficiency (BOSS) program to serve eight families.

Dignity's Scholarship Fund tops \$100,000.

2008

2007

2006

**DIGNITY HOUSING TURNS 20!**

Alicia Christian and Beverly Roberts celebrate 20 years of leadership at Dignity Housing.

In partnership with the Office of Supportive Housing, Dignity Housing launches Future Homes, a rent to own pilot initiative.

Nearly 2,000 adults and children served.

Open Doors Celebration honors volunteer support from Neal Colton, Esq. of Cozen O'Connor and raises over \$130,000 for housing renovations.

Alicia Christian is named "Woman of the Week" by the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Marjorie Shiekman, long time volunteer and board member, is nominated by Dignity staff for the Fundraising Volunteer of the Year.

# Decades of Dignity

1990

Dignity Housing West established in Oakland, CA.

Minneapolis Mayor sends delegation of city housing officials and homeless activist to Philadelphia to consider replication of Dignity Housing model.

1991

Dignity Housing establishes its **Pride Property Management Division** to operate and maintain its growing inventory of affordable housing.

**The Dignity Scholarship Fund** is established at the Philadelphia for Dignity™ event, raising \$70,000.

International entertainer, **Phil Collins** contributes \$60,000 to Dignity Housing.

1992

Dignity Housing establishes the **PATHS Toward the Future** program to address the needs of its children and youth.

More than 500 formerly homeless women, children and men served.

Dignity's Leadership Development Institute, later renamed the **Annie Smart Leadership Development Institute**, was established as a vehicle for tenant activism and civic involvement.

1995

The first group of tenant Associate Degree candidates and Dignity Scholarship recipients complete Community College.

1994

Dignity participates on **Homeless Initiative Planning Committee** - instrumental in bringing \$13 million in HUD funds to the city for housing and supportive services.

Dignity Housing is profiled by the **Enterprise Foundation** for providing exemplary service-enriched housing for the homeless.

Dignity executes **joint venture with People's Emergency Center - Imani Homes** - utilizing 24 Section 8 certificates and providing client workshop supports.

1993

Dignity receives citation for excellence by **Fannie Mae Foundation**.

Dignity Housing featured in **The Chronicle of Philanthropy**. Described as agency that is "Rebuilding Homes - And Lives."

Collaboration planned with **Pennrose Properties**. Dignity to provide social services at Mansion Court, using 16 Dignity Section 8 subsidies.

2001

Dignity receives **\$100,000 grant from the Knight Foundation** to ease impact of reduced contributions after the September 11th tragedy.

Dignity Housing launches its new **Life Skills Development Workshop Module Curriculum**.

2002

Dignity Housing establishes its **After School Program** to provide a safe, nurturing environment for Dignity II children.

Construction begins on the Dignity III (BOSS) program.

2003

Dignity Housing receives the **Grand Jury Award** from the Historic Preservation Alliance for the renovation of housing units in Dignity III (BOSS).

The **Dignity Drum Line** is established by local musician and After School tutor, Mike Stevens.

Construction of the Dignity III (BOSS) program completed.

2005

**Champion of Dignity Awards** presented to former and current board members for their outstanding commitment and contributions.

Dignity Housing acquires ownership of 60 units of affordable housing from the Redevelopment Authority.

Dignity's Deputy Director establishes the **Tenant Alumni Association**, consisting of 25 former residents.

Phil Collins invites Dignity Housing to collect donations at his Wachovia Center concert. A personal donation of \$10,000 is received.

2004