



CARES Chronicle

Compassion | Accountability | Respect | Excellence | Sustainability

Spring 2022

**Furthering our mission with new construction in
Maryland and Washington, DC Markets**



The Appleton at Spring Flats, an affordable senior living community, located in the Petworth neighborhood of Washington, DC achieved almost 100% occupancy in three (3)



Upton II, a Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) partnership, located in downtown Rockville, Maryland is a newly opened affordable senior living community. In

months. The Appleton consists of 88 mixed income apartments.

With sincere appreciation and gratitude, we thank the Tillman-Thomson family for their generous donation used to curate beautiful artwork in memory of their beloved Bonnie. Bonnie E. Thomson who was a former employee of Victory Housing and contributed to the development effort for many years.

March, just in time for spring, Victory Housing welcomed residents into their apartment homes. Upton II offers 150 apartments, professionally designed, decorated, and appointed community spaces for socializing or just relaxing, and a beautifully landscaped courtyard.

Welcoming New Additions to the Victory Housing Team

Victory Housing continues to attract highly qualified and experienced professionals. Building our team with such outstanding talent enhances our ability to further our mission and grow our capacity to serve the middle market and those needing affordable housing and services.



Jesse Kormega- Assistant Controller

Jesse joins Victory Housing with over 15 years' experience in the health and housing services industries. Jesse is a certified public accountant. He has

worked in the not-for-profit sector for organizations providing education-centric and housing services.

Congratulations on your Well-Deserved Promotion



**Jeffrey Blackwell - Senior Vice
President of Real Estate
Development**

Jeff Blackwell has been promoted to ***Senior Vice President of Real Estate Development***. Jeff has been with Victory Housing for over 15 years. Mr. Blackwell is responsible for leading his team and spearheading all aspects of development including land acquisition, zoning, design, and construction. In addition, Mr. Blackwell coordinates community financing structures which are frequently complex and multi-layered including taxable and tax-exempt bonds, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, HUD Section 202, and private and public funding sources.



**Vernetta Vernon – Executive
Director of Malta House**

Vernetta Vernon has been promoted to executive director at Malta House. Vernetta joined Victory Housing in September 2017 as an assistant director at Byron House. She later transferred to Raphael House where her sales, marketing and operational experience were immediately utilized. Ms. Vernon is a certified assistant living manager in the state of Maryland.

With over thirteen (13) years of experience in assisted living leadership roles, Vernetta brings with her a customer service background and keen ability to coordinate and provide care to residents. She is constantly striving to offer the best care and service to those around her.



**Father Mark Knestout, a
Victory Housing Board
Member, is elevated to
Attaché at the Permanent
Observer Mission of the Holy
See to the United Nations.**

Since 2020, Father Mark Knestout served on the Victory Housing Board of Directors while filling the role of Lead Pastor of St. Bartholomew Church in Bethesda, Maryland. Father Knestout, recognized for his commitment, service, and years of accomplishments, has been appointed as Attaché at the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York City. In addition to his new position, Father will be serving as the Executive Director of the Path to Peace Foundation. The Path to Peace Foundation underwrites the operations of the Holy See mission. A heartfelt thank you is extended to Father Knestout for his dedication and service to Victory Housing. We wish him peace, joy, and success for years to come.

A Special Thank You To Our Assisted Living Teams
Honoring Years of Service and Devotion to Our Residents



Victory Housing is grateful for our amazing employees. We are especially proud of those that have demonstrated their commitment to the Victory Housing mission through their years of service.

To recognize our employees, a **Service Awards Celebration** is held annually at each assisted living community. This VIP red carpet event, full of colorful flowers, great food, and festive music, recognizes years of service and achievement with awards including certificates, trophies, and appreciation bonuses. To add to the appreciation, honorees are recognized by their colleagues and leadership through shared thoughts, memories and accolades personalized to each employee.

Please join us in recognizing our amazing employees, the class of 2022, that have served our seniors for more than ten years.

25 years of service

Diana Min

20 years of service

Shirley Cogasy

Magdalena Dalgo

15 years of service

Mirian Njau

Nancy K. Wambua

Mattie R. Bazel

Joyce A. Palmer

10 years of service

Mary Perera

Marta Carlos

Pearl Botchway

Sebele Desta

Ray Gilchrist

Maritza Ramirez

Saba Nigus

Nellie Kaiyo

Bethlehem Gobu

Doug Heffron

Elisabeth Orchard

Dupe Agboola

Fun, Festivities and Community-At-Large Programs at Victory Housing Communities



Valentine's Day at Byron House

Byron House residents celebrate Valentine's Day in style. A beautifully decorated dining room covered in hearts and roses set the stage for a party full of sweets. The highlight of the party included themed red and pink pastries made with love.



Mardi Gras at Grace House

Our communities will always find a reason to gather, to share a laugh, a song, and a special treat. At Grace House, Mardi Gras was celebrated with masks, music, and entertainment.

**Councilman Trayon White, Ward 8,
Visits Victory Square Senior Apartments in Washington, DC**



Councilman Trayon White, representing Ward 8, made a stop at Victory Square to discuss issues and initiatives with his constituency.

In addition to community-based gatherings and educational programs, Victory Square offers a program entitled, Saving Our Selves (SOS). SOS focuses on issues pertaining to mental health.

COVID-19 Vaccination Focus Continues



On February 23, 2022, Victory Housing conducted a third booster clinic for all eligible assisted living employees and residents in partnership with Holy Cross Health Network. We continue our commitment to keep our residents and employees safe and up to date in adherence to CDC Guidelines. At our independent living communities, we offer optional Covid-19 testing monthly. These events are sponsored by Echelon Community Services.

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It is through donations by organizations and individuals, that Victory Housing can further the development of new communities and programs, which benefit the needs of low to moderate income seniors in the Metro DC Area.

For more information about Victory Housing as well as assisting us in furthering our mission, the following links are provided.

Victoryhousing.org

Donate.givedirect.org



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