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# **Testimony before the United States House Committee on the Budget**

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**by Bishop Dr. Shirley Holloway  
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, House of Help City of Hope  
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## **The Founding Principles of Servant-hood**

Service, Collaborative Authority, Mentoring and Foresight. These four basic tenants of servant -hood are what drive the philosophy and beliefs of House of Help City of Hope (HOHCOH). For over 20 years, The House of Help City of Hope has fed, clothes, housed and rehabilitated over 30,000 people in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and continues to serve those who are in need of help regardless of race, creed, color, sexual orientation or religious conviction.

As the Washington Examiner has reported, the House of Help City of Hope has a recidivism rate of 15-25% compared to the national average of 30-59% for drug court graduates and as compared to a 75-80% recidivism rate for those not participating in any structured program, according to a June 2008 research report commissioned by the Virginia Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee: Planning and Development Subcommittee.

## **The Clientele**

HOHCOH has a unique clientele, our men and women come from a wide variety of sources including, but not limited too: Correctional Facilities, Churches, Psychological Institutions, Homeless Shelters and some enter right off the streets.

## **The Programmatic Structure**

Our treatment regimen is a patient-centered outcome approach. In addition to alcohol and substance-abuse treatment and transitional housing, House of Help City of Hope provides other mental health-related services, career counseling, protective services for battered women, a GED program, parenting classes, daycare facilities and K-12 academic support for children

One of our most unique features is that we shelter women and their children at our Kingdom Village women's facility in Prince George's County, MD, whereas most shelters who provide the kind of comprehensive treatment services that we provide will not take in women who have their children with them.

We provide the same basic services for men at our Kingdom City facility in Charles County, MD as we do for the women at Kingdom Village, including anger management, life-skills training, job preparation and job placement assistance.

The House of Help City of Hope transitional housing and treatment phases are 90-days, 6-months (and 5 years for ex-offenders)

### **Repairing Familial Bonds to Restore the Family**

Recent studies show that while the number of marriages amongst low income families have increased, we at HOHCOH are committed to increasing that number by including those men and women who were at one time labeled socially inapt and lacking the skills to build long lasting relationships with others. To date, We have had hundreds of successful marriages that have come about through people connecting in our work-life and faith-based outreaches within the programs.

Additionally, through our mental health support services, we are continually teaching new life skills that allow our clients who have been incarcerated to connect with the positive aspects of society and become productive citizens who contribute to the well-being of their kinship.

In essence, we are strive daily to refocus or clients on what important and return to the basic order of humanity.

### **The Outcome(s)**

There is truly no way to measure the success of any social service program except for the hard data reported in documents and annual reports. HOHCOH is more so interested in the soft data, the I stories that can be found in the testimonies of those men and women who have successfully completed our program and who have either moved on to start new lives or who have been able to restore the lives they had prior to their addiction. Here are a few of those soft data items.

My name is Ambia Nixon and I can't do anything but thank God for bringing me to The House of Help City of Hope. Being here is the best decision I have ever made. I have learned about staying in recovery and staying in Christ. I would recommend that everyone who is lost and need help finding their way to come to The House of Help City of Hope.

-Ambia Nixon

Hello my name is Shanay Hopkins. I came to The House of Help City of Hope on July 27, 2009. I was homeless and didn't have any place to go. So I decided to come to this program. I'm glad I came because it taught me to love, respect, and honor myself. This program taught me how to get closer to God. Also this program has taught me to care about myself. This program has helped me see a lot of stuff.

-Shanay Hopkins

My name is Angela Adams and I have been at The House of Help City of Hope since June 8, 2009. Since I've been here I've found Christ and I've been clean for nine months. I have been delivered from my anger and so many other issues I have lived with for so many years. I have forgiven a lot of people that did me wrong. I have also been delivered from some psychiatric meds as well. I have to say in closing, I have even gotten out of my pity pot. I thank God for The House of Help City of Hope and the woman who made it possible my Bishop, Bishop Dr. Shirley Holloway who I am truly inspired by. What an awesome and beautiful woman she is. I can not close without thanking the leaders also. Thanks a whole bunch for everything.

-Angela Adams

My name is Alfred Williams and when I left the D.C. jail I had no idea that I would still be here in The House of Help City of Hope. This program has really helped me out a lot and I really need the help from the Lord.

-Alfred Williams

My name is Ralph Jenkins and after leaving the D.C. jail I never thought that I would still be here at The House of Help City of Hope. At this program after listening to different things I found that I really needed this and so much more. Thank You!

-Ralph Jenkins

First giving honor to God my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I was introduced to The House of Help City of Hope by Minister Woods and Brother Troy of the House of Help while I was in the RSAT Drug treatment program at the D.C. jail seven months ago. The House of Help City of Hope under the direction of Bishop Dr. Shirley Holloway has allowed me to reestablish myself with the word of God and to place myself back on track.

-Donald Ghee

My name is Leo Gerald and I started using drugs and alcohol at the age of 12. I started going to jail at the age of 15. I always knew God, but I didn't know how to obey God and it caused me a lot of hurt and pain and in return I caused a lot of hurt and pain to my family. By the grace of God I violated my parole and had to go back to jail. I then entered a program called RSAT where I found out about The House of Help City of Hope. The House of Help City of Hope has giving me the opportunity to learn about my addiction, my character defects, and the difference between what my flesh desires and what my spirit needs. I have build a better relationship with my family and most important my God. My goal is to gain some employment, go to school to become a drug counselor and let God use me to give back to those who are where I once was. First I want to thank God for keeping me at The House of Help City of Hope, for housing me, and my family for supporting me.

- Leo Gerald

Before coming to The House of Help City of Hope I had a problem communicating with people. Since being here I have learned some acceptance and I have learned to get along with people now. Thanks to God and this ministry I am a better person now than I used to be.

-Richard Atchison

God is a good God and all mighty God. Well brothers and sisters as I stand before you today I can truly say that I am a living witness. On March 9, 2009 the day I was out in the wilderness until this program called D.C. Central Kitchen First Helping. They were feeding the homeless and they were the staff that made it possible for me to volunteer my services into D.C. General Detox Program for about seven days to clear my drugs and drinking problems. Ms. Hilary Espinosa, Ms. Amelia, Mr. Jeff Ruskin, and Mr. Christ. Thanks a million guys. Over all I thank God for his powers and strength to move forward in life. Also I want to thank him for sending Sister Melissa Tony for her testimony. That touched me the most. Doing God's will and walking a Godly life as I see the glow in her. I had to ask her to show me the light at the end of the tunnel. So she gave me direction to the promise land 2322 16<sup>th</sup> Street S.E. Washington D.C. The House of Help City of Hope. There I stayed for six months in the program. I want to thank Bishop Dr. Shirley Holloway for opening her doors for all brothers and sisters in need of help. Thank you for the ministers, deacons, and administration for all their hard work. Last but not least to all my Christian brothers and sisters who prayed for me truly I must say my prayers have been answered.  
-Parnell E. Hawkins

My name is Ronnie Tucker and I was introduced to drugs and alcohol at the age of 14. I began spending more time drinking and using drugs than taking care of my responsibilities as a husband, brother, and an uncle. Through it all God still found it in his heart, his grace and guided me to The House of Help City of Hope. Under the supervision of Bishop Dr. Shirley Holloway and her staff I've learned that I am a child of God. I've learned how to thank God for his mercy, for his forgiveness, and his blessings. With these tools I have began to live a spiritual life through Jesus Christ. Thank You Bishop Dr. Shirley Holloway for her leadership, Brother Troy and Minister Woods for their teaching of the foundation of my new life, and thank you to Sister Melissa for her outreach that informed me of this life changing ministry.  
-Ronnie Tucker

I came to the program on September 28, 2009. I was using drugs and alcohol and I was in and out of jail. I found out about the program from my parole officer after I did 28 days in another program. The House of Help City of Hope has changed me a lot because I don't have the urge to use anymore. I have been clean for 5 1/2 months and striving for more days. My goals are to get a job, take care of my kids, and stay out of jail. I would like to thank Minister Woods for pushing me to focus. I would also like to thank Bishop Dr. Shirley Holloway for accepting me into her program I really learned a lot.  
-Steven Gross

My name is Phil an ex-drug dealer and a man with a bad attitude. I am a chef at a major hotel in the Washington area. One night as I was getting ready for my night job my little girl came in to my room and said "daddy why do you hate me ". Right then I stop everything I was doing and told her daddy will always love you. I looked over at my wife and said it is all over. When I went to work the next day, I sat down with my boss and told him what happened and that I really needed some time off. My foundation as a husband and as a father was messed up. He then made a phone call for me. On October 19, 2009 I came to 16th Street for intake. As time went by and I really got into the teaching of Bishop Dr. Shirley Holloway and Brother Troy my House leader, I learned who Phil really was. By reading the word of God from my Bible, my foundation of being a man of God has giving me a spiritual peace. My job at the hotel will be there waiting for me along with my family. If the Bishop will allow me to use my skills to give back, I will do so. But by 2012 I plan with the help of God to open my restaurant in the summer.

-Philip McAbee

I had problem with marijuana for 40 years didn't know how I was going to kick the habit. I was on probation for possession of drugs and they told me to get into a program because I needed help n(Jesus). The House of Help was recommended by a friend, so I got an interview with the HHCHJ Staff. I was accepted into the HHCH program and now I don't have any cravings of smoking marijuana. I give all the credit to God using Bishop Shirley Holloway as His messenger. I plan to help the ministry in areas I am familiar with because I am on disability and retired. AMEN

-Ronald Mobley

I had a problem with heroin for 25 years I realized I need help contacted my sister whose Pastor is Pastor Seawell. Together they directed me to the Bishop Holloway to the HHCH. Since being here I battle with the desire it's a fight everyday. I am getting stronger. Bishop's Holloway's firm hand and anointed teachings have giving me what's needed to be a success in endeavor. Praise God for Bishop Holloway. Now my goal is to keep God first and in the near future own my own home Improvement Company. Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ JESUS who strengthens me.

-Malcolm J. Bland Sr.

I was in real bad shape because I stayed in a vacant house all by myself (homeless) for almost one year and a half, the police came and put me out. And I went back in the vacant house when they left. I was addicted to a little bit of everything cigarettes to crack, alcohol and pills in that period of time. Cag Program in NE 16<sup>th</sup> street sent me to the HHCH 11.20.09 just in time for the Turkey. Since being here my life has changed and gotten better. I don't know what I'm going to do right now. I am taking one day at a time.

-Carlos Smith

I came to the HHCH because I was sitting in a car, the thunder and lightning struck and the made the tree fall on the car; at that moment I decided to change my lifestyle for the better. My fiancé' told me about the HHCH so I gave the ministry a try. The ministry is helping me to change my lifestyle for the better. I would like to give thanks to my GOD first, Bishop, Wanda, Troy, Gloria and many others. My new goals are to do the right things.

-Kenneth Alston

I had problems with drugs, alcohol & my behavior for 35 years. The Howard psyche ward told me about the House of Help City of Hope, so I went to the HHCH two years ago but didn't stay. I went back to Howard's psyche ward and over heard a conversation about HHCH so I went back to HHCH. HHCH has helped me to stop using alcohol and drugs. And my behavior is much better and I care about people more today, meaning I just don't think about myself. My goals are to stay clean, get a job, get my own place and hopefully God will send me a soul mate to be married. Thanks Bishop for the idea and the leadership for instilling in my life.

-James Griffin