

## *So Others Might Eat*

SOME is an interfaith, community-based organization established to help the poor and homeless of our nation's capital. SOME is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax-deductible. Federal ID #23-7098123.

Please remember SOME, Inc. in your will or estate plan.

# POVERTY, HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL



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In 2014, SOME's Dining Room served 427,278 meals; this was made possible by staff and 18,466 Dining Room volunteers.

## Poverty

- Almost one in five Washington, DC, residents live at or below the poverty line, the third highest rate in the nation (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).

- The poverty rate for children below the age of 18 in DC is 30%, contrasted with 23% nationally (DC Kids Count, 2013).

- 60% of unaccompanied homeless adults, and 12% of adults in homeless families, reported that they have no regular income of any kind (DC Point in Time Homelessness Report 2015).

- The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that in 2013, 109,200 persons in DC were below the federal poverty level, which is \$19,790 for a three- person household.

- 61,131 people below 50% of the poverty level
- 131,284 people below 125% of the poverty level
- 153,637 people below 150% of the poverty level

- Since 2000, the Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in DC increased 75% (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2014). Although the DC minimum wage is \$9.50 an hour, a full-time earner must make \$28.25 an hour, without time off, to afford that unit (National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2014).



## Homelessness



- Approximately 41,000 households in Washington, DC, are on waiting lists for housing assistance, with an estimated wait time of over 20 years. (2015 Five Year Plan to End Homelessness in the District of Columbia).

- The number of persons in homeless families in DC increased by 29% between 2011 and 2015 (DC Point in Time Homelessness Report 2015).

- The number of homeless persons in DC in 2015 was 7,298, including 2,049 children. The total is a 6% decrease from 2014. (DC Point in Time Homelessness Report 2015).

- Of homeless adults in DC:

- 15% reported domestic violence history
  - 13% reported physical disabilities
  - 12% reported severe mental illness
  - 11.2% reported chronic substance abuse
  - 8.8% reported both chronic substance abuse and severe mental illness
  - 8% reported chronic health problems
- (DC Point in Time Homelessness Report 2015).

- Permanent Supportive Housing, such as SOME's, makes up roughly 48% of DC's Continuum of Care housing and shelter resources (DC Point in Time Homelessness Report 2015). Decreases in homelessness between 2014 and 2015 "are largely due to the District's continued investment in permanent housing solutions for both individuals and families." (The Community Partners for the Prevention of Homelessness 2015).

## Hunger

- Nearly 61,000 people (10.4 percent of the population) in Washington, DC, live in extreme poverty, unable to meet even their basic needs, including purchasing food (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).

- Nearly 16% of the DC population experienced food hardship, or not having enough money to buy food for themselves or their family in the last 12 months (FRAC, How Hungry is America, 2015).

- Roughly 30% of DC households with children experience food hardship. This figure is among the worst in the country. (DC Hunger Solutions, Ten Years of Accomplishment, 2013).

- Hunger leads to poor health. Many at risk from hunger get sick more frequently and for longer periods of time, leading to loss of time at school and work (FRAC, Food Hardship in America, 2013).

- One in eight DC residents struggles to access fresh fruits and vegetables. Along with hunger, this contributes to poor health for low-income persons (DC Hunger Solutions, 2013).

