



**20 YEARS.**

**20 STORIES.**

THE EDGEWOOD/BROOKLAND  
FAMILY SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE  
CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN THE COMMUNITY





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# PROLOGUE

The Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative (E/BFSC) came into existence as a result of a national and local demand to change the manner in which states and cities were addressing the needs of children and families in low-income and high crime neighborhoods. Many families were the victims of poverty and other ills such as inadequate housing, lack of education, unemployment and underemployment, mental illness, and substance abuse; however were ending up in the child welfare system by default.

The challenge facing federal and local governments and communities led to the creation of legislation, which brought a wide range of community stakeholders to the table to develop creative solutions to the growing concerns for the welfare and well-being of children and families. The 20 stories captured in this document provides a glimpse of E/BFSC's work over its first 20 years, starting with the redevelopment of Edgewood Terrace and ending with the reopening of the Ionia R. Whipper Home along with our vision for the next 20 years.

As we reflect on our journey, we honor and thank those who have contributed to our success: our founding organizations, such as Community Preservation and Development Corporation, Edgewood Property Management Corporation, and Beacon House Community Ministries; resident leaders; and our Board members and staff over the past 20 years. We also thank the Healthy Families Thriving Communities Collaboratives; our primary funder, Child and Family Service Agency and its administrators; The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness; and our city officials who championed our cause for the past 20 years. While E/BFSC could not exist without the contributions of these entities, there are numerous individuals and groups who have supported E/BFSC; several are profiled in this publication.

We dedicate this publication to the creation of the Healthy Families Thriving Communities Collaboratives in Washington, DC and to all who have contributed to E/BFSC's success over the past 20 years. Thank you for being a part of our story!



**KIM J. BRIGHT**  
*E/BFSC Board President*



**LOUVENIA WILLIAMS, LICSW**  
*E/BFSC Executive Director*



CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS IN THE COMMUNITY

**EDGEWOOD/  
BROOKLAND**

FAMILY SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE



## VISION

To imagine and create neighborhood based support networks that promote healthy families, safe neighborhoods and a thriving Washington, DC.

## MISSION

Strengthen Families and Build Vibrant Communities in Washington, DC.

## CORE VALUES

Our work reflects the needs of Washington, DC in that we are:

- ▶ Collaborative
- ▶ Committed
- ▶ Flexible
- ▶ Innovative
- ▶ Passionate
- ▶ Responsive

# 01 REDEVELOPMENT OF EDGEWOOD



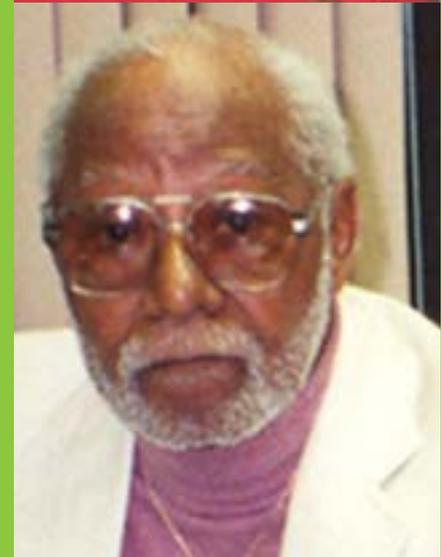
In the early 1990s, at the height of the crack cocaine epidemic, Edgewood Terrace served as one of the largest drug markets in the city. This Ward 5 complex was known by many as “Little Beirut” because of its economic and physical deterioration and crime. When Community Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC) acquired the property in 1995, the team, led by Leslie Steen, immediately identified three crucial factors that had to be addressed in order to create positive change in the community: 1) partnerships with key community leaders; 2) redevelopment of the property; and 3) provision of onsite programs and services for residents. The massive redevelopment of Edgewood Terrace played a significant role in the creation of the Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative.

“The redevelopment of Edgewood Terrace set the stage for the creation of the Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative.

-**LOUVENIA WILLIAMS, LICSW**  
Executive Director, *E/BFSC*

Although other DC and Federal officials felt that the only way to revitalize this neighborhood was to demolish the complex, Eugene Ford, Sr., Founder and President of the Board of CPDC and owner of the Edgewood Management Corporation, had a vision for the property and the residents. The plan was set in motion for the bricks and mortar and CPDC commissioned The Catholic University National School of Social Service (NCSSS) to conduct a needs assessment of the community to align the needs of the residents with the redevelopment. Louvenia Williams, who was the Director of Field Instruction at NCSSS at the time, was involved in the needs assessment and shortly thereafter, was hired by CPDC as the Director of Community Services. In this role, her engagement efforts led to the development of a service vision for the community residents.

Critical partnerships were formed during this time that ultimately resulted in the creation of E/BFSC. Cynthia Booker (deceased) the Executive Director of Beacon House Community Ministry, an onsite provider of educational and mentoring services for children and youth on the property, co-founded E/BFSC with Ms. Williams. In addition, the Edgewood Management Corporation Council was created. This group was made up of the resident leaders of three resident associations on site which represented the properties that were divided by ownership. These resident leaders were Mrs. Rogerline Nicholson, Mrs. Violet Collins, and Mr. Richard Green, who are fondly remembered by E/BFSC by three Annual Partnership Awards, named in their honor.





## 02 CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY of AMERICA

E/BFSC's long-standing relationship with the National Catholic School of Social Service at the Catholic University of America continued into the early years of E/BFSC. Ms. Williams has mentored several Masters Social Work interns, three of whom have played an integral role in shaping E/BFSC's 20 year journey.

**Stacey Gold** started as an intern with CPDC, one of the founding organizations, in 1994 and became one of the first employees of E/BFSC in 1996. She was invaluable to E/BFSC's start up and development activities. After approximately 6 years as E/BFSC's first Deputy Director, Stacey moved on to Beacon House, a youth program in Edgewood Terrace and E/BFSC's original fiscal agent, where she served as Executive Director for approximately 10 years.

**Sharon Crytzer** joined E/BFSC in 2000 as an MSW intern, with a concentration in policy and planning. Sharon has been integral to the steady

growth of E/BFSC by developing and implementing systems to build and expand E/BFSC's infrastructure, programs and organizational capacity. She immediately realized her love for community-based work and still serves in the role of Deputy Director.

**Kristine Dupree** came to E/BFSC as an intern in 2001. E/BFSC gave Kristine an opportunity to work directly with families, and develop a solid foundation for Social Work practice. Kristine has served E/BFSC in several roles, but is currently a Program Manager and oversees E/BFSC's Community Engagement and School-Based programming.

# 03 THE HEALTHY FAMILIES THRIVING COMMUNITIES COLLABORATIVE MOVEMENT

“The Child and Family Services Agency relied on the Collaboratives to become our prevention arm in an effort to keep children from coming to the attention of the child welfare agency.

—DEBRA PORCHIA-USHER, Former Deputy Director Community Partnerships  
DC Child and Family Services Agency



In response to a federally funded effort to reduce the number of children entering foster care and improve early intervention supports for at-risk families, the District of Columbia's Commission on Social Services established a public/private coalition to design a multi-year family preservation and support plan in 1994.

The theme chosen by the Commission was “Healthy Families-Thriving Communities.” The goal of the commission was to develop a flexible, comprehensive, family-centered, community based, outcome driven child and family service delivery system in the District. This process led to the issuing of Request for Proposals to implement neighborhood based family support networks citywide.

E/BFSC came into existence in 1996, when several neighborhood based organizations responded to the RFP to serve at risk families in a portion of Ward 5. The effort was led by the Community Preservation and Development Corporation and Beacon House

Community Ministries, who joined with resident organizations and other community service providers. In April, 1996 E/BFSC was awarded a planning grant, along with three other city wide groups, which would be known as the Healthy-Families Thriving Communities Collaboratives. This was followed by a nine month planning period which led to implementation grants and the expansion of the city-wide Collaboratives from four to eight. The implementation funding allowed for the continued development of the neighborhood based service delivery model and in September 1997, E/BFSC opened its first Family Support Center in Brookland Manor and began formally serving families.

## 04 CHERYL F.

I don't know where I would be if Ms. Bell and Mr. Mustaffa had not come along. I just love them.

-CHERYL F.



Cheryl F. is a 50 year old mother of 8. Cheryl was one of the first families in the community to receive services from E/BFSC in 1997. Her hard work and progress is one example of a successful partnership between a CFSA Social Worker, Shareef Mustaffa; a Family Support Worker, LaShone Bell; and the family.

The family was referred to E/BFSC as a result of her child's failure to thrive diagnosis. After several home visits and interactions with the team, Cheryl was open to working with E/BFSC. During Cheryl's tenure with E/BFSC, she received support around the temporary loss of custody of her children, housing displacement, and substance abuse. With the support CFSA and E/BFSC's community based team; Cheryl successfully completed her substance abuse treatment, located affordable housing, and completed family therapy. She reached

her ultimate goal in 2000, when she was reunified with all of her children.

Cheryl has remained connected to E/BFSC and our support continued for years after reunification, as needed and requested by the family. Cheryl says that E/BFSC has helped her become a better, stronger and more determined person. "I don't know where I would be if Ms. Bell and Mr. Mustaffa had not come along. I just love them."



## THE NUMBERS

**100%** OF CHILDREN

remained safely in their homes after successful case closure by E/BFSC in FY16.



## 05 BROOKLAND MANOR

E/BFSC opened its main office in the Brookland Manor community in 1997, where we served families for over 16 years, and were truly a part of the community fabric. E/BFSC's primary offices were housed in a multi-unit apartment building shared by Ms. Minnie Elliott, a resident leader.

There are so many memories of Brookland Manor, including our neighbors, E/BFSC's Cub Scout Troop, and Girl Scout Troop 3395; however one of our fondest memories of Saratoga Ave, NE is Family Day. Each year, E/BFSC hosted an event for children, youth and their families in the Brookland Manor community to kick-off the beginning of summer. This annual bock party brought together over 300 residents to the 1300 block of Saratoga Avenue with fun, family activities, but also provided linkages and connected families to resources and service providers.

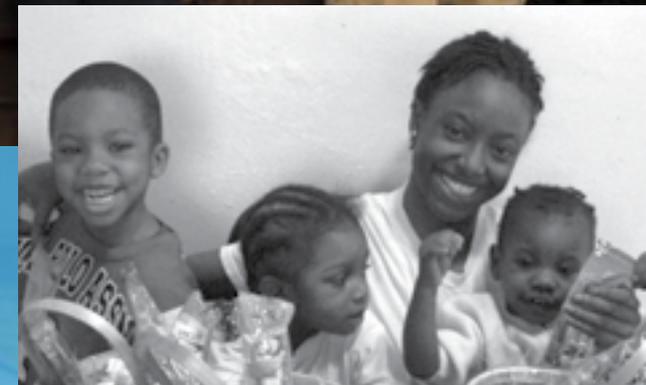
Although Brookland Manor is facing redevelopment, it will always be considered home to E/BFSC and the staff who spent countless hours, nights and weekends at 1345 Saratoga Ave, NE.



## 06 THERESIA B.

“Edgewood/Brookland became a host of aunts and uncles and I am grateful to have had them in my life, and still in my life.”

-THERESIA B.



Theresia B., then age 19 and mother of three children, had no idea what was in store for her when she moved into the apartment building that housed E/BFSC’s main office in 2002.

Theresia, who had just transitioned from DC’s foster care system, recalls that she didn’t have a reliable mom, dad or any family and was essentially “on her own.” Despite her age and lack of familial support, Theresia acknowledges that back then she wanted no part of E/BFSC because of their relationship with CFSA.

In addition to the challenge of being a young mother, Theresia, pregnant with her fourth child, also took on the guardianship of her younger brother after his release from a juvenile facility.

Eventually, Theresia began to open up and was able to benefit from the services and support available just one floor below. After becoming involved with E/BFSC, Theresia enrolled in classes with Academy of Hope and earned her GED, while caring for her 5 children. Immediately thereafter, she began coursework and earned an Associate Degree in Paralegal Studies. Theresia is now employed by DC Department of Corrections as a Correctional

Officer Private and looks forward to soon being promoted to Corporal.

Theresia continues to reside in the Brookland Manor Apartments with her five children, each of whom she states are doing well. Theresia describes E/BFSC as having been a “security blanket” for her and her family following her transition from the foster care system. She is grateful for all of the support she has received from this “host of aunts and uncles and moms and dads” and states that she is “grateful to have had them in my life, and still in my life.”

# 07 HOUSING FIRST

## THE NUMBERS

**40** were families enrolled in the original Housing First pilot project (1998).

**1350** are families enrolled in the city's current Housing First program (2016).



“One of the major economic changes in urban areas is that families can’t afford to live apartments or houses in the city, so as a result there has been an increase in children and families living in homeless shelters.

—LOUVENIA WILLIAMS  
Executive Director, E/BFSC

In FY1999, The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP) developed a pilot program referred to as the Community Care Grant (CCG) program, in an effort to prevent homeless families from entering the homeless shelter system.

As a result of E/BFSC’s positioning in the neighborhood and our success in assisting homeless families, TCP selected E/BFSC and the Columbia Heights Shaw Family Support Collaborative to participate in this pilot.

This program was modeled after the evolving national program called “Housing First” which subscribes to the philosophy that: (1) the best way to end homelessness is to help people move into permanent housing as quickly as possible; and (2) once in housing, formerly homeless people may require some level of services to help them stabilize. This program had a nearly 100% success rate in the first year. In the second year, this program was expanded to include all eight HFTC Collaboratives.

In FY2005, this program model was presented to DC’s Child and Family Services Agency by the HFTC Collaboratives who

adopted this model, naming it “Rapid Housing.” This process was added to the scope of work to be provided by the Collaboratives for youth aging out of foster care and for families at risk of having their children placed in foster care due to housing related concerns.

E/BFSC continues to expand our housing and homeless services programs, through the creation of our family stabilization and housing facility for young women in the historic Ionia R. Whipper Home facility; and through the provision of services to homeless families at various shelters in the city.



Schools cannot be successful without partners. Edgewood/Brookland has given [Jefferson] the opportunity to make our school bigger and better than I think it was ever designed to be.

-NATALIE GORDON  
Former Principal, Jefferson Academy

## 08 FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

A Full Service Community School is not just an initiative; it's the belief that children thrive when parents, schools and communities have sustained partnerships and leverage services that address a wide range of needs that impact academic achievement. E/BFSC adopted this concept in 2003, when we began working with Browne Educational Campus (BEC).

The partnership emerged after E/BFSC was approached by an Administrator from the DC Public Schools the Principal of BEC with a request to become the lead agency to develop a Full Service Community School at the campus.

In 2013, E/BFSC had the opportunity to expand this model through a grant from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to develop full service community school programming at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School

and Jefferson Academy. In partnership with the school and wider community, E/BFSC has implemented student enrichment activities, truancy intervention programming, and co-sponsored several family/parent engagement activities. In 2014, E/BFSC opened a satellite office on the lower level of Jefferson Academy and is strategically positioned to further support the needs of the school and broader community.

Student learning is influenced by ongoing experiences within families, schools, and communities; therefore E/BFSC programming extends beyond the school walls. E/BFSC partners with the school and community to address student needs that impact academic achievement, such as: truancy, violence, child abuse, homelessness, and other social issues that have become all too common for many children in today's society.



## 09 CARMEN ROBLES-INMAN

Carmen Robles-Inman started her journey with the HFTC Collaborative movement in February 1998, when she began working as the Project Director for DC Agenda, which facilitated the work of the city-wide Collaborative movement during its inception.

Over the past 18 years, she has served in many leadership roles within the Collaborative movement; and E/BFSC is fortunate that she joined our team

“I want the best for the people of the District of Columbia . . . and so I just keep coming back day to day.”

-CARMEN ROBLES-INMAN  
Program Director, E/BFSC

in 2012, where she still serves as a Program Director, but more importantly a leader, mentor and teacher.

Carmen has over 25 years of experience in designing, managing and leading human and social service programs and organizations, and has dedicated her career to working with vulnerable populations in the District of Columbia. She has lived her entire life devoting her skills and her personal life to the upliftment of others. Carmen states that “at my heart, I am just a people person. I love the fact that I can come to work every day and feel that who I am is reflected in the work I do and the love that I have for people.”



## 11 FELICIA JONES-JOSEPH

Felicia Jones-Joseph began her journey at E/BFSC in 1997 at the tender age of 19. Felicia had one child of her own and was raising 2 of her younger siblings. She was a resident of the Brookland Manor Apartments, living just a few doors down from the E/BFSC’s main site on Saratoga Avenue, NE.

This is one of many success stories in which E/BFSC hired community residents, while also encouraging and facilitating opportunities for personal and professional development.

Felicia started at E/BFSC as a part-time Program Assistant. In response to an expressed desire to work directly with families, Felicia was promoted and eventually became a Family Support Worker. While taking on new roles at the Collaborative, Felicia was also chartering new territory personally as a wife and mother of a second child. In 2002, Felicia left E/BFSC to pursue other interests in the Norfolk Tidewater area.

# 10 THE RAG BABY EXCHANGE



E/BFSC has a long history of building the capacity of smaller community based organizations to expand the safety net for children and families. E/BFSC is especially proud about the accomplishments of The Rag Baby Exchange (RBE) whose mission is to develop healthy self-images in women and children.

RBE hosts doll-making workshops, in a variety of community settings, to educate women and children on self-image. Experts say poor self-esteem contributes to many social problems, including low academic achievement, drug abuse and depression. RBE's process promotes acceptance and self-affirmation, which contributes to the development of a healthy and fulfilled person.

Sherri Roberts-Lumpkin, RBE's creator/proprietor, was introduced to E/BFSC when RBE was in need of a fiscal agent. Through this relationship, E/BFSC has supported RBE to build its administrative,

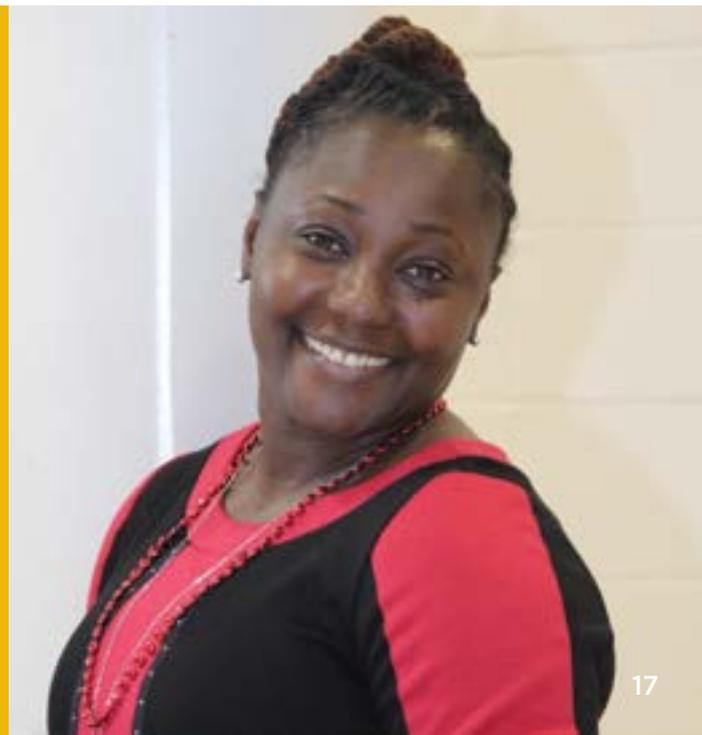
operational, financial and contractual capacity. RBE now has a business bank account, commercial insurance, current business licenses, office space, improved product line and federal 501c3 designation.

Sherri credits E/BFSC in stabilizing and boosting her fledgling company. With E/BFSC's support, RBE is positively impacting the sense of self-worth of women/children throughout DC. As Sherri says, "Creating and exchanging this little doll encourages participants to see the beauty and value in each other; it creates a starting place to talk, share and heal."

In 2005, after moving back to the DMV area, Felicia returned to E/BFSC and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services in 2009. Felicia later earned a Master's Degree in Social Work in 2013. Today, as a Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW), Felicia serves in the capacity of Program Manager at E/BFSC. When asked to describe her experience with E/BFSC in one word, Felicia says "transforming."

"The Collaborative has truly, truly, truly impacted my life."

-FELICIA JONES-JOSEPH  
Family Services Manager, E/BFSC





## 12 LOUVENIA WILLIAMS

Louvenia Williams, born and raised in Washington DC, has devoted her career to the creation of safe, nurturing communities, within her native city. Over her 40 year career as a Social Worker, she has worked in the fields of child welfare, criminal justice, mental health, community organizing and education.

Ms. Williams has the distinction of being classified as a pioneer by the National Association of Black Social Workers, where she has been a member of since 1973. This honor recognizes her national advocacy efforts for the rights of children, families and impoverished communities; and locally for her work in the community building partnerships with residents, neighborhood groups, public agencies and officials to address the needs of children and families.

For the past 20 years Louvenia has dedicated her career to one of the most challenging community strategies: Collaboration. She is one of the founders of the Healthy Families Thriving Communities Collaborative movement, and is the founder and Executive Director of E/BFSC. She has successfully developed and nurtured E/BFSC

“We were responding to a need in the city to keep children out of the child welfare system.

-LOUVENIA WILLIAMS  
Executive Director, E/BFSC

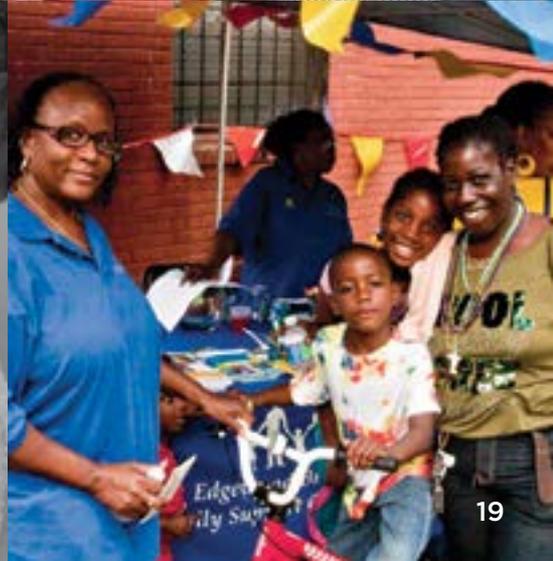
for the past 20 years; while still championing the city-wide Healthy Families Thriving Communities Collaborative movement. She has served as a teacher, mentor, bridge-builder, advocate and innovator to countless staff and colleagues.

Ms. Williams does not limit her knowledge or generosity to her profession. She never shies away from reaching out to families who she knows personally and providing them shelter, family support and guidance to further their education, employment and personal development. She has adopted numerous children and families and is extremely generous in making sure that her entire family dedicates themselves accordingly. She has established the gold standard for how families can best be supported and guided toward success.



I will continue to be an advocate and assist in addressing the needs of families in the District of Columbia.

-LOUVENIA WILLIAMS



## THE NUMBERS

**251** families were served in **Ward 6** in FY16.

**315** families were served in **Ward 5** in FY16.

# 13 EXPANSION IN WARD 5 & WARD 6

Since its inception, E/BFSC has created meaningful partnerships to better achieve our mission to “Strengthen Families and Build Vibrant Communities in Washington, DC.”

When E/BFSC began, its target area included communities in Ward 5, such as Edgewood Terrace and Brookland Manor; however this targeted focus expanded in 2001, then again in 2010 and 2011 when the Healthy Families Thriving Communities Collaborative movement was confronted with the loss of community based

family preservation and prevention services in Ward 5 and Ward 6.

The communities impacted bordered E/BFSC, which at that time were being served by long-term partners threatened with funding instability. To ensure that these neighborhoods did not lose critical supports and services, E/BFSC agreed, with support of the city-wide Collaborative movement, to partner with the organizations that previously supported these communities. Consequently, E/BFSC established subcontracting relationships as well and hired staff from these communities previously employed by the organizations.

Through these strategic partnerships, E/BFSC further embraced our mission, while increasing our administrative efficiency, strengthening our service delivery system, and enhancing our capacity to meet the ever-changing needs of children, youth, families and communities. With the support of our residents, community leaders, board, staff, public and private partners we were able to meet the challenge of a difficult economic and social climate and continued the provision of critical services to families and residents throughout Ward 5 and Ward 6.



## 14 WARD 6 RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT

“We began to see ourselves as connected and integrated.”

-RHONDA HAMILTON  
ANC 6D Commissioner

The Collaborative movement gained momentum and strength due to many resident leaders who understood the needs of the community, families and children. Naturally, when E/BFSC expanded to Ward 6 in 2011, we worked closely with the many resident leaders in the various Ward 6 communities, such as James Creek, Greenleaf, Syphax and Potomac Gardens.

**Rhonda Hamilton, ANC 6D Commissioner**, reminisced as she looked back on the work of the Collaboratives over the past 20 years: *The Collaboratives, saw the potential in us as residents, in our parents and in the community as a whole. They put us in a space where we became appreciated, honored and recognized for what we brought to the table. They looked at us as having strengths and the potential to become spark plugs for positive change to guide the communities to better places. We began to see ourselves as connected and integrated into their work; we became a dynamic team.*

Today, the residents of Ward 6 continue to be critical to the work of E/BFSC. Their presence is most often felt through our full service community school programming at Amidon-Bowen and Jefferson Academy, where residents often volunteer and serve on E/BFSC's Community Advisory Committee.

“E/BFSC changed not only our lives,  
but also the lives of our family.”

RAYMOND COATES  
*Housing coordinator, E/BFSC*



## 15 GLADYS & RAYMOND COATES

Raymond Coates, a native Washingtonian, joined E/BFSC in 2003. Prior to E/BFSC, Raymond was actively involved with the North Capitol Collaborative, Inc. (NCCI), first as one of the resident founders, and later as an employee. His early experiences with the Collaborative movement invigorated Raymond he recalls constantly talking about how much he liked his job and the people he helped. This involvement also elevated his status in the community and his family, which led to him prompting his baby sister, Gladys Marshall, to apply for and be hired by E/BFSC as a Family Support Worker in 2004.

In his current role as Housing Coordinator, Raymond uses his outgoing nature and his expansive network to engage landlords and place E/BFSC families in affordable housing in DC.

Meanwhile, Gladys, demonstrated her passion for community work at E/BFSC, where she was known for her keen observation skills, direct manner and dedication to families. During her twelve year tenure, Gladys, a constant learner, worked on several projects and initiatives. Gladys' untimely passing in March, 2016, left a deep hole in the E/BFSC family, but her spirit is felt every day at the office as we remember her passion for the community and the families with whom she worked.

Raymond credits E/BFSC for changing the trajectory of both their lives and that of their family: “we have more young people in college, planning to go to college, or graduated from college, because of our experiences at Edgewood.”





“I’m grateful for the Collaborative and everything they’ve done for my family.”

-TAWNY S.

## 16 TAWNY S.

Tawny S. is a 32-year-old mother of 7 children. As a child, Tawny was traumatized by the violent death of both her mother and father as a result of domestic violence. This incident led to Tawny entering the DC foster care system.

Upon her transition from foster care, Tawny, who had 1 child at the time, received community-based support from various groups including E/BFSC while struggling to support her children. She later married a man, twenty years her senior, ending up

with a total of 7 children. Although, she is able to recall some good times; Tawny states the relationship with her now former husband was fraught with domestic violence.

Prior to coming to the attention of E/BFSC once again in FY2015, Tawny separated from her husband with the support of a civil protection order in an effort to keep herself and her children safe. While she had attempted this numerous times in the past, this time was different because she had been approved for a housing subsidy and was able to secure a home for her family.

With the support and encouragement of her Family Support Worker, Tawny

took full advantage of the many services offered through E/BFSC, including Transformational Thinking Training and the Rise up Employment Program. Because of her love for her children and her persistence in ensuring their wellbeing and achieving her goals; Tawny was able to secure employment in her first real full-time job. This employment as teacher’s aide at a local childcare center has launched her on a career path and she is now working toward becoming certified as a Child Development Associate. Tawny continues to receive services and supports from E/BFSC to both heal and continue her journey.





# 17 DEMIKA A.

Demika A. first learned about E/BFSC through our community school programs at her children’s schools: Amidon-Bowen Elementary School and Jefferson Academy. Demika was connected to E/BFSC’s RISE uP employment program to identify and address barriers to employment.

Demika began meeting with the team to refine her resume, as well as interview, job searching and networking skills. She also attended and successfully completed various professional development related workshops (Financial Literacy, Food Handler’s certification, Transformational Thinking, Marriott Hospitality employment sessions).

She slowly transformed into a candidate that knew what she wanted her career to look like; and her current employer was so impressed with her experience and work ethic that she was promoted to General Manager within the first 90 days of employment.

Demika also had a need to overcome her fear of public speaking and working in larger audiences. During the RISE uP program she continually strived to remove that fear, by connecting with employment partners such as Grant Associates customer service and Streetwise Partners career mentoring program. This hard work was evident when Ms. Alston was recently featured in a radio and mailer ad in support of the Pepco-Exelon Merger and its benefits for workforce development. She states that she always steps up when E/BFSC asks, because she wants to give back and be thankful for her accomplishments.

## THE NUMBERS

# 74

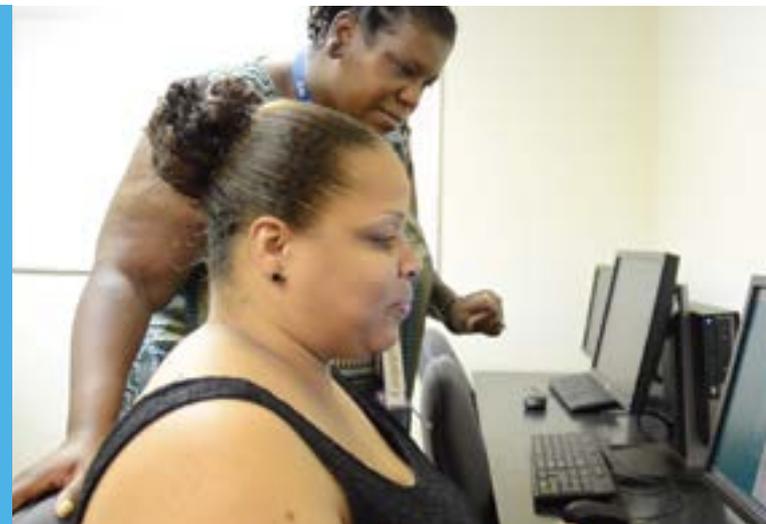
Clients obtained employment through E/BFSC’s program in FY16.

# 62%

retained employment for at least 90 days in FY16.

“Mrs. Sheena Moton has been great. Not only has she been my mentor, but she’s been a friend, too.”

—DEMIKA A.



# 18 HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

Sharing a Thanksgiving meal with loved ones; or gifting children with toys on Christmas morning can pose a significant financial burden and undue stress for many families. E/BFSC's Holiday Campaign was birthed when E/BFSC recognized that many families who endure financial hardship are not able to share these holiday traditions and with their families.

Over the last decade, E/BFSC has sought to fill the gap and help many underserved families create life long memories together. Each holiday season, E/BFSC stocks shelves and converts office space into a spirited holiday toy store where families can "shop" for toys in a supportive environment. Additionally, E/BFSC's Adopt-a-Family program personalizes the holidays by matching a donor with a family in need.

Over the years E/BFSC has relied on the generous contribution of donations from partners, businesses and individuals. Many of our donors return each year and continue to remain dedicated to our campaign. The Copeland Family, a loyal donor that began supporting the campaign in 2011 shared that they return each year in the hopes of "bringing smiles, laughs and joy to a much deserving family as they create happy memories together during the holidays".



## THE NUMBERS

146

families received support from E/BFSC's holiday campaign in FY16.

129

donors contributed to E/BFSC's holiday campaign in FY16.



## 19 IRA L.

“What I’ve come to realize is that by doing something to benefit my daughter, I was also doing something to benefit myself.”

-IRA L.



Ira L. was referred to the FEED program from the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) Connecting Dads Program in 2014. Mr. L. has successfully completed the Transformational Thinking Group, Quenching the Fathers Thirst and Healthy Relationship class at E/BFSC; and is now employed with the support of E/BFSC's Employment Program.

What makes this father's story so interesting is that he was ready to be a father to his daughter and work towards reunification before he even knew that he was the biological father. His daughter was born two months premature and remained hospitalized for nearly two months after her birth. When she was medically cleared for discharge from the hospital, the hospital was unable to reach the mother and could not confirm that Mr. L. was the father; therefore she was placed in the

care of CFSA. He completed a DNA test, which confirmed that he was the biological father, and he has been working to gain custody ever since.

Mr. L. has also overcome barriers in his life, such as drug addiction, to work towards gaining custody of his daughter. His case worker at CFSA has stated that "She has never met anyone that has been as diligent and as willing as he has been in working towards his goal of reunification with his daughter."



“This is an example of what many organizations [in the District of Columbia] are doing including Edgewood/Brookland. Creating family-friendly shelters for young families.

-LOUVENIA WILLIAMS  
Executive Director, E/BFSC

## 20 IONIA R. WHIPPER HOME

Ionia R. Whipper, a physician and social reformer, started the Ionia R. Whipper Home (IWH) for unwed mothers in 1931. The home, which was open to all regardless of race or religion, served as the only maternity home for black women for four decades. In 1978, IWH shifted its focus and began serving young women in foster care between the ages of 12-21. The home provided a comprehensive, residential program utilizing a holistic approach for treating girls and young women until closing its doors in 2014.

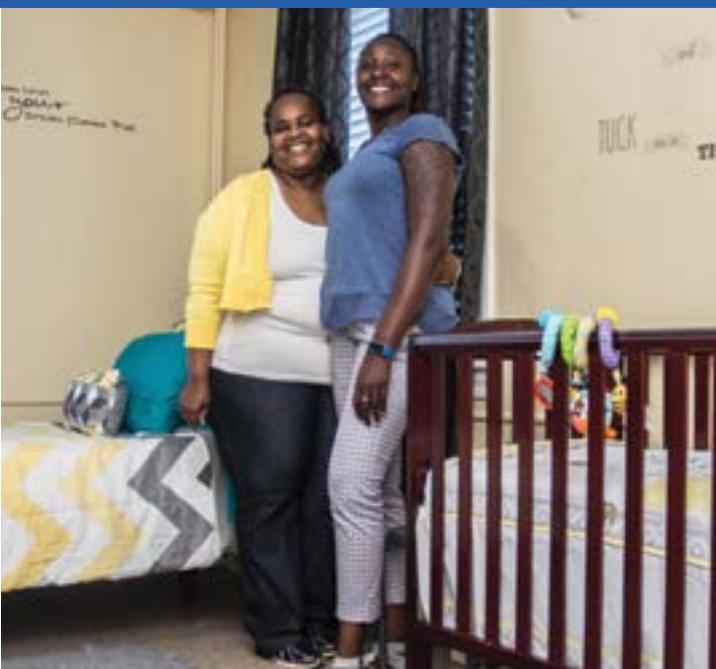


Joan Hurley served as Executive Director of IWH from November 1979 - July 2013. She describes her time at IWH as having been a "journey of love" as she recalls the many experiences she had with the girls and in the community. In 1996, Ms. Hurley attended a nearby community meeting hosted by E/BFSC. Ms. Hurley wanted to learn more about this newly formed community network. Apparently liking what she heard, Ms. Hurley joined forces with E/BSC and later became the first Board President. Ms. Hurley continues serve as an active member of E/BFSC's Board of Directors.

In August 2016, E/BFSC and the IWH Board were able to re-open the doors to the IWH facility, which currently serves as an alternative to shelter for nine (9) homeless young women with children between the ages of 0-6 years. In addition to a home-like environment, IWH affords the women and children who reside there the opportunity to grow and develop with the support from their peers and E/BFSC staff. Services offered to the families include Transformational Thinking training, goal setting and realization, intensive case management, parenting support, employment

assistance, life skills training, infant and maternal health screenings and linkage, behavioral health screenings and linkage, financial literacy/management, and most importantly assistance in preparing for and securing permanent housing.

E/BFSC is honored to continue the legacy of Dr. Whipper and Joan Hurley, by supporting these young families at this historic location.



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# EPILOGUE

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Being involved in the creation of the Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative is the most amazing experience I have had in my life, second only to the birth of my children and grandchildren. I am so proud of the work we have accomplished together over the past 20 years! As I work with the organization to plan my transition, I challenge E/BFSC to remain true to the mission, and continue to adapt and respond to the needs of the city's most vulnerable residents. It is clear that a lack of both affordable housing and living wage jobs are crises that are placing a significant number of low income families at greater risk than ever before. These crises will require E/BFSC and the Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives to take on the challenges of developing the city's workforce and actively participating in the creation of affordable housing. Even after my retirement, I stand ready to support the Collaboratives and the city in addressing the needs of our families, as a concerned resident of the District of Columbia.

---

## **LOUVENIA WILLIAMS**

Co-Founder, Executive Director  
*The Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative*

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF  
**OUR STORY.**

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**WRITERS:** E/BFSC MANAGMENT TEAM

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