



Backgrounder: New Endeavors by Women
“Helping Women Take Control of Their Lives and Move Out of Homelessness”

History: New Endeavors by Women (NEW) was founded in 1988. NEW operates a 24-hour residential facility for up to 26 women. Since its inception, the program has helped nearly 1500 women take control of their lives and move out of homelessness. More than 80 percent of those women have since moved on to independent living situations. Women who complete the program successfully are referred to as “alumni” of NEW.

Programs: NEW residents are offered a variety of services by NEW staff, interns and volunteers. New residents work with a case manager to develop a treatment plan individualized to help each woman meet her goal of becoming self-reliant. Residents receive medical and mental care, legal advice, and assistance with personal finances, time management, and goal-setting.

Employment/Education: NEW residents also receive personalized educational and employment counseling. An Education/Employment Specialist meets with each woman to identify and improve job skills, develop a professional resume, and prepare for job interviews. Residents are encouraged to improve reading and mathematics skills, and to work toward earning their GED or higher education degree. NEW staff members guide residents through the school selection and financial aid processes.

Housing: NEW staff members work with each resident to obtain safe and affordable housing. A Housing Specialist helps each woman repair poor credit if needed, understand the options available to her, and research the most promising opportunities.

Support Groups: Approximately 80% of NEW residents come to NEW from a substance abuse program. To help these women as they adjust to living with sobriety, NEW offers weekly support group meetings and workshops. Residents transitioning from a substance abuse treatment program are also required to attend NA/AA meetings, and to participate in an aftercare program.

Recreational Activities: To help and encourage NEW residents as they take control of their lives and move out of homelessness, NEW works with local organizations to provide cultural and personal enrichment programs for the residents. Students from the Potomac Massage Training Institute donate their time to give massages to NEW residents, church groups volunteer time to lead recreational activities, and organizations such as the Junior League provide life skills seminars and arts and crafts activities.

NEW Expectations: NEW offers a residential program that provides transitional, holistic assistance to pregnant women who are recovering from substance abuse. The program helps these women learn to lead healthy, independent lives.

Shelter Plus Care Program: Through the Shelter Plus Care program, a federally funded initiative, NEW provides private, subsidized housing to women who no longer need NEW's 24-hour residential facility. Shelter Plus Care participants continue to have access to all NEW services, and work with a case manager to transition into a new, independent life. Program participants continue to receive housing and employment/education assistance.

Ways to Help: NEW would not be able to make a difference in the lives of residents without the continued support of volunteers and sponsors. People who wish to support NEW's mission to help women take control of their lives and move out of homelessness can contact NEW's Executive Director, Wanda Steptoe, or Director of Development, Mary Popit, at: New Endeavors by Women, 611 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Phone: (202) 682-5825; Fax: (202) 371-5653; Website: www.NewEndeavorsbyWomen.org.