

Michiko Yoon

From: Carpenter's Shelter <development@carpentersshelter.org>
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Carpenter's Shelter

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Meet Veronica*. Veronica is a single mother with a 10 year-old daughter named Melissa*. She currently works as a substitute teacher in Northern Virginia and has a year and a half of school left before she graduates and becomes a full-time 2nd grade teacher.

"With work falling behind and still trying to go to school, being a single mom and trying to afford an apartment that was out of my price range, I fell way behind and I ended up getting evicted," said Veronica. "Once I was in the process of eviction, I finally was accepted into Carpenter's Shelter."

Veronica spent several months living with her daughter at Alexandria Community Shelter (ACS) and eventually enrolled in Carpenter's Shelter's Rapid Re-Housing program. It was a struggle to find a place to live. Veronica spent around \$500 in application fees. She kept getting rejected by landlords who told her she did not make enough money. Landlords told Veronica she needed a 700 credit score and income three times the rent.

Veronica worked on improving her credit score while in shelter and was able to pay off some of her debt.

"I know being here in the shelter was the last place I wanted to be, of course, but once I got in, I felt like doors opened that I didn't have before. Options became available to me that I didn't have before. I really appreciate that."

"All the case workers [at Carpenter's Shelter] that I've had through this process have been really helpful. They gave me information like grants and things that I qualified for that I didn't know anything about before. They helped me obtain housing. They helped me by sending housing lists and things like that that I didn't really see before when I was searching on my own."

"I've also been able to get help with transportation for my daughter to get back and forth to school and things like that which is going to continue for the rest of

the school year even now that I am housed. I appreciate that. Everybody's been working with me and I felt that I had a big support system behind me from being in the shelter."

Now that Veronica and her daughter are no longer homeless, her next goal is to work towards owning her own house so that she will not have to worry about being evicted again.

Veronica has completed her application for the Lee Fifer Jr. Educational Scholarship Fund and the Employment Income Pilot. The Pilot will match income earned through employment up to a pre-determined amount to incentivize participants to increase their earned income, and further support the participant in stabilizing in permanent housing.

*Name changed due to privacy reasons



As summer approaches, we are in need of more volunteers to provide or serve meals or volunteer at the front desk. If you know someone who would be interested in volunteering this summer, please spread the word that Carpenter's Shelter is in need of volunteers. Visit CarpentersShelter.org/Volunteer for more information.



Congratulations to our 2024 Award Winners!

Bob Douglas Awardees:

Philip Sunderland
Rick Evans

Wall of Honor Awardees:

Elizabeth Bradley
Jim Taylor
Mike Lyden
Anna Sudha Community Kitchen

These volunteers have been a consistent presence, some working behind the scenes for Carpenter's Shelter and others serving our residents week to week. Their dedication and passion for helping others have truly made a significant impact on both our clients and our shelter community.



Thank you to our donors who helped us to Spring2ACTion! Because of everyone who gave, we were able to surpass our \$100K goal!

If you were not able to donate during Spring2ACTion, there are still ways to contribute.

The United Way of the National Capital Area will host its 12th annual **Do More 24** on **Wednesday, May 15, 2024**. Do More 24 is more than just a day of philanthropy--it is a social movement that brings together charities, private companies, and people of all ages who are committed to making a difference in their community. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 to support summer activities for children experiencing homelessness. The experience of homelessness is a known risk factor for young children's development and well-being, but with your support we can ensure that each child that enters our shelter has a stable environment in which to grow and thrive.

[CLICK HERE](#) to help us DO MORE on Wednesday, May 15th and continue to make a difference in the lives of children, women, and men experiencing or at-risk of homelessness!



As we approach the close of our fiscal year on June 30th, we reflect on the tremendous support that has propelled us forward this past year. At Carpenter’s Shelter, every donation we receive transcends mere monetary value—it’s a beacon of hope, a promise of new beginnings for families and individuals striving towards stability and a home.

If you’ve already contributed this year, we’re deeply grateful for your generosity. Your support has been crucial. For those who are considering giving, whether for the first time or perhaps again, we warmly invite you to join us in this meaningful endeavor. A gift at this pivotal time helps ensure we finish the fiscal year strong, ready to face new challenges and continue our mission of moving people from homelessness to housed.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our work, and for making such a profound impact. Together, we are building a foundation of hope and transforming lives.



We are happy to welcome Jamila Kenney, our new Finance Director, to Team Carpenter's!



Congrats to our new Employee of the Quarter, our Communications Specialist, Michiko Yoon! You can often find Michiko behind the lens of a camera, taking photos or shooting

Jamila Kenney has over 20 years of experience in the non-profit world. She has a master's in HR and a niche for accounting. Jamila is a mom of three adult children and one fur baby. She resides in Springfield, VA. Jamila is originally from Queens, NYC and has lived in the DMV almost 25 years. In her free time, Jamila likes to go for drives, go to the gym and cook different recipes that she finds. Jamila looks forward to getting to know the staff and volunteers here at the shelter.

video. She has shared the stories of residents and staff with the broader community, letting people know what makes Carpenter's Shelter stand apart from other organizations.



Thank you Merrill Gardens Senior Living for hosting a Day of Impact at The Hoffman Center! The group came, bought supplies to paint the hallways. Also, their culinary team served up a delicious meatloaf lunch for the residents.



Upcoming Events

Virtual Volunteer Training

Tuesday, May 28th, 6:00 pm

Click this [link](#) to register!

Please note that the [Volunteer Application](#) must be completed before training.



Thank you to Lyles Crouch Traditional Academy for their donation! The students and staff raised \$2,500 for Carpenter's Shelter.

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