LOTUS CAMPAIGN

Unexpected allies working together to take homelessness

July 2024 Newsletter

FEATURE STORY

21ST CENTURY ROAD TO HOUSING ACT

This federal government recently passed one of the most significant pieces of legislation this decade, a reauthorization of the 21st Century Road to Housing Act (RTHA) that includes a permanent authorization for Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with AIDS (HOPWA). With ample support from Congressional Republicans and Democrats, the RTHA passed the House of Representatives every step at critical Congress. Regardless of political stripes, most everyone agrees that we need more housing supply in our country to solve homelessness.

Passed 327-71 in the Senate, 53-24 in the House, the Housing Act was not taken to speed up construction, nationwide HUD Financing, and sets up restrictions on rental housing construction and operations. Housing Supply is the key.

Two provisions are very satisfying of wins:

1) Permanent authorization of HOPWA, which provides around the current cap on number and remains unaffected.

2) A $2000/year fund rewarding localities that actually increase housing supply.

We are grateful for the passage of this act – a major victory for housing. The road ahead is more implementation, since most of the crisis with no dedicated funding. Read more at the Housing Act Summary at www.housingforall.org/rtha-summary

Let the home building wonders

FEATURED REAL ESTATE REPORT

BDP IMPACT REAL ESTATE

A shared commitment

BDP Impact Real Estate is a mission-driven real estate company focused on creating sustainable, equitable, and impactful housing solutions for those in need. Through their mission-driven business model, they create meaningful opportunities for workforce residents as well as individuals and families seeking homeownership, ensuring that the benefits of their work extend beyond mere profits, contributing to a better future for both people and the planet.

BDP's is also a strategic partner of Community Solutions, the national nonprofit behind the Built for Zero movement, which mobilizes communities across the country to measurably reduce homelessness. Together, they are demonstrating how real estate can be a powerful force for good, creating sustainable housing access and supporting long-term housing stability.

BDP became involved with Lotus Campaign through their shared commitment to addressing homelessness in the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area. Lotus Campaign "Over the past year, we've been exploring ways to better connect our housing portfolio with local organizations that are helping individuals and families navigate housing and supportive services," explains BDP's Chief Impact Officer Sasha Naim.

Lotus Campaign, Washington, DC

BDP's income-informed approach to property management is their key differentiator.

Impact investors recognize that a certain risk will be managed when investing. These include overcoming property maintenance, communicating with tenants, and navigating the complexities of rent collection.

BDP Impact Real Estate takes this risk a step further by actively seeking out opportunities to house people who are facing housing instability. The process is "to help tenants who have experienced some sort of eviction, such as homelessness or housing insecurity, successfully integrate into society and make the most of their new home. We want to see our residents thrive, and we believe that this is a critical component of our mission."

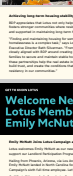
"One of the things we've been proud of at BDP is our resident support model, which includes partnerships with organizations like Lotus Campaign, Community Services," says Naim. "Together, our teams work to identify challenges and connect residents to resources, and create opportunities for community and connection through shared events, wellness activities, and neighborhood engagement."

A national fit

Naim says that Lotus Campaign is a natural fit.

"We BDP are believe housing stability requires more than an apartment. It requires a community that supports residents in their journey to stay in a stable, housed and thriving. When our partnership with Lotus Campaign begins, we appreciate Lotus Campaign's role as a convener and connector. Our greatest success to date has been our partnership with Lotus Campaign and Community Solutions. Lotus Campaign's housing expansion, and our forward-looking approach to development and acquisition

Relationships like Lotus Campaign are valuable because no single organization can solve housing challenges alone. The ability to connect housing providers, nonprofits, residents, and local leaders creates a shared ecosystem that strengthens both housing access and housing stability."



Lotus Campaign, Washington, DC, Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting

Achieving long term housing stability

Beyond providing access to housing, BDP Impact Real Estate's navigate barriers, but also foster stronger communities where residents feel connected to their neighbors and supported in maintaining long term housing stability.

Naim emphasizes the importance of building "relationships with our residents and providing them with the tools they need to succeed." Lotus Campaign's Executive Director Will Simpson, "From a member perspective, our values are clearly aligned with BDP Impact Real Estate's mission to provide housing and services to people who have experienced housing instability. Time is precious everywhere, but it is even more so for people who are experiencing homelessness. We want to see our members, who are confidence that support successful, long term residency in our communities."

GET TO KNOW LOTUS

Welcome New Lotus Member Emily McNutt!

Emily McNutt Joins Lotus Campaign as Raleigh Program Coordinator

Emily McNutt joined Lotus Campaign in Raleigh as Program Coordinator. She supports our Leadership Development, alongside with Engagement Director Hailey Hunter.

Hailing from Phoenix, Arizona, Lee Los degrees her siblings and Boston for work, Emily McNutt landed in North Carolina for graduate school. Lotus Campaign's sixth full-time employee, Let's get to know her!

Q: What did you do before Lotus?

A: I was in graduate school at UNC Chapel Hill when I became an intern at Lotus Campaign. I was working at a local nonprofit, Triangle Family Services, and an intern's homeless problem in Boston.

Q: What brought you to Lotus?

A: I originally worked with Lotus as an intern working as part of Lotus's Leadership Development Cohort. I was working at Triangle Family Services, a social listening my experiences working in a homeless shelter, which drew me to Lotus's mission. I felt I could bring my experiences working with people in crisis and the opportunity to join the team and work in Raleigh was too good to pass up.

Q: What do you like most about working at Lotus?

A: Our work is very relational. It would not be possible without strong relationships with our partnership organizations, Lotus Campaign's leadership team, and our members. I enjoy being part of a team that is very supportive and kind and totally focused.

Q: What are looking forward to most this year and what challenges do you face?

A: I'm looking forward to supporting Lotus as we grow and learning more connected to our partners in Raleigh.

Q: Can you share a fun fact about yourself?

A: I love to read, I love to hike, I love to bake, and I travel.

LOTUS CAMPAIGN'S 2024

Key Party

CELEBRATE WHAT MATTERS

Tickets Are Now on Sale for the 2024 Key Party!

Join us for our **2024 Key Party, Saturday, September, Saturday, Jim O'Connell**, president of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and Lotus Campaign's Board Member, Lotus Campaign's Board Member, **Jim O'Connell**, has walked alongside people experiencing homelessness on the streets of Boston. His work transformed the national conversation by asking a simple question:

"How can someone die in Boston? Why don't they just move to Florida?"

Lotus Campaign asks him follow up questions: "What if the most important intervention doesn't cost a dollar? It costs a blanket?"

Together, we will explore these questions, look at proven solutions to homelessness, and discuss how communities can end homelessness for their neighbors.

They'll be joined by artists **Jesse Tomlinson, September 15**, at The Bath in Charlotte and **Thursday, September 19**, at Whitman & Jackson in Raleigh.

Early-bird tickets are $75, and tickets all night are $100 until July 1st. Join us for an evening of delicious food, drinks, and conversation, and learn about Lotus's work and impact.

Charlotte Key Party

Tuesday, September 17
Fearrington Village, Pittsboro, NC

Raleigh Key Party

Thursday, September 19
Carolina Theatre, Durham, NC

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IN THE NEWS

What We Are Reading And Listening To

Dr. Jim's Prescription for Homelessness

For more than four decades, Dr. Jim O'Connell has walked alongside people experiencing homelessness on the streets of Boston. His work transformed the national conversation by asking a simple question: How can someone lead if they don't have a place to live?

An enthusiastic of Dr. Jim, he brought our upcoming Key Parties to Charlotte and Raleigh, we are reading two books:

Home Free: Ending Homelessness, One Person at a Time by Jim O'Connell and Kathleen Harrison. Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder, and Dr. Jim O'Connell, Home Free tells the story of Dr. O'Connell's work with the residents of Boston and creates a nationwide blueprint for ending homelessness in Boston.

The Real Housewives of Rhode Island Sport Conversation on Homelessness

It's no small feat to connect pop culture to the stresses of – and solutions to – homelessness. But that's what the cast of the Real Housewives of Rhode Island accomplished by conversation on the streets of Boston. As Jim O'Connell says, "We appreciate that Dr. Scott did not shy away from one of the hardest questions: how do we end homelessness? Dr. Scott's work is a gift to the Rhode Island community." Jim O'Connell, the highly-encouraging guy behind the Key Party, Dr. Scott, director at the VA/BT Benefit Homelessness and Housing Initiative, Dr. Scott, director at the VA/BT Benefit Homelessness and Housing Initiative, Dr. Scott, Director of Housing Stability Services at Community Solutions, and the University of Rhode Island's College of Pharmacy. Watch the full conversation at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ldq-Ldq-Ldq. We are so glad this reached an MPV audience!

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