



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## The Washington Home Invests \$238K to Build a Senior Social Hub for Older Adults in Ward Four

*New collaboration unites eight community organizations to enhance social connection programming, improve therapeutic care access, and expand cognitive health screenings for early detection and support.*

**WASHINGTON, DC (July 14, 2026)** — Working to strengthen program support and healthcare screenings for older adults across the District, The Washington Home (TWH) has awarded **\$238,050** to launch the **Ward Four Senior Social Hub Collaborative**, a coordinated effort among eight community organizations working together to reduce social isolation, improve health outcomes, and expand access to critical services for older adults.

The investment will support an integrated network of aging services organizations and community partners that will collectively serve more than 3,300 older adults through **therapeutic recreational services, preventive health screenings, and social engagement opportunities** for ongoing care and support.

“Integrating the delivery of healthcare screenings and social engagement programming creates a broad-based solution that supports older adults as they age,” said Crystal Carr Townsend, MPA, CEO of The Washington Home. “This collaboration helps older adults confidently retain their independence, social engagement, and mobility in the community.”

The Ward Four Senior Social Hub Collaborative is part of TWH's redesigned FY26 grant strategy, which prioritizes collaborative solutions that improve coordination, reduce duplication of services, and create sustainable community impact. In FY26, TWH awarded more than \$4.5 million to organizations serving older adults across all eight wards of the District through initiatives focused on healthcare access, social connection, workforce development, and aging in place.

**Improved Care Through Screenings & Connection.** The collaborative is designed to address two critical factors influencing healthy aging:

*Healthcare Access & Early Intervention.* More than 2,900 individuals will receive preventive health screenings and support services – including cognitive and memory screenings, referral services, medical access, and daycare services.

*Social Connection & Community Engagement.* Approximately 375 older adults will participate in social, educational, and wellness activities that strengthen community connections while increasing awareness of available health resources and screening opportunities.

The integrated screening opportunities and social activities for older adults can reduce social isolation and loneliness as well as help to more quickly identify health concerns that could potentially contribute to poorer health outcomes.

**Collaboration Partners Deliver Impact.** TWH is proud to partner with these eight organizations to deliver the following services across the health care continuum so older adults can receive multiple points of support:

- **Brookland Senior Day Center:** Provides adult daycare health services with social, medical, and recreational programs.
- **East Rock Creek Village:** Connects members and provides information, cultural and social activities, education, services, and support to help community members confidently age in place.
- **Genevieve N. Johnson Senior Day Care Center:** Provides adult daycare health services with social, medical, and recreational programs as well as music memory cafe and caregivers lounge programs.
- **Iona Senior Services:** Operates a Dementia Navigators program, ensuring timely follow-up after screenings and helps families access appropriate services and maintain stability at home. Offers caregiver respite, an information hotline, and social programming.
- **Plants and Bloom Reimagined:** Offers nature-based therapeutic programs that use plant and flower activities to promote social connection, mental wellness, and engagement, including pop-up Bloom Mobile events.
- **So Others Might Eat:** Provides permanent, affordable housing for older adults as well as food, nutritional supplements, medical and safety equipment for clients to age in place. Resources include healthcare screenings, a summer camp, and other social programming.
- **Story Tapestries:** Facilitates art therapy workshops at the Brookland Senior Day Center that promote communication, creativity, and emotional well-being.
- **Vida Senior Centers:** Provides a gathering place for Latino seniors who find themselves isolated culturally and linguistically. Offers food security, health information, education, and social interactions with other older adults – serving as support to age as part of a community.

“Together, these partner organizations are creating a stronger, culturally responsive network of care that helps older adults and their caregivers access the services, connections, and resources they need to stay engaged and supported as they age in place” said David J. Saunders, Chairman, Genevieve N. Johnson Senior Center. “This investment allows us to reach more people, reduce barriers to care, and ensure no one has to navigate aging or cognitive changes alone.”

## About The Washington Home

The Washington Home is a private foundation that provides funding to entities that create and deliver innovative, compassionate, and well-managed programs to improve the quality of life for elderly and/or terminally ill residents in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Founded in 1888, The Washington Home, until recently, provided long-term care to residents of its nursing home facility in upper Northwest Washington, DC, hospice care to patients in their own homes, and care in the in-patient hospice wing of the nursing home.

In recent years, the Board of Directors of The Washington Home directed a repositioning of the organization by ceasing hands-on care and consolidating its financial resources to be deployed for maximum impact in accordance with its longstanding mission. Learn more at [www.TheWashingtonHome.org](http://www.TheWashingtonHome.org).