Thrive DC™

At the Heart of a New Start

Happy Spring!

It's nice to have some warm weather again.

The last few months have been incredibly busy; I'm excited to show you how your support has been making an impact!

Women and Homelessness

We're making progress on helping our homeless women get the same treatment as our men.

One of the things we learned from our Homeless Women's Needs Assessment (available on our website) is that when homeless women are given a housing assessment they're routinely assessed as less vulnerable than their male counterparts.

What's happening is that our ladies' vulnerabilities often have to do with the trauma they've experienced—and the last thing they want is to rehash the worst moments of their lives with a stranger.

Since greater assessed vulnerability = more resources this is a problem.

To help our ladies be more comfortable with the assessment, we're training our new Women's Program Coordinator to be an assessor so that our ladies can talk about their trauma with someone they're familiar with.

Using a trauma-informed assessment style will help them open up, and hopefully get more resources.

Do More 24

May 17th—18th is our Do More 24 fundraiser!

This year we're raising money to help us provide meals and emergency services over the summer, since the city no longer helps us feed the homeless.

It only costs $1.80 to serve a meal. For just $54 you can feed a client for a month.

Save the date for May 17th, and help us raise $20,000 to feed our clients over the next few months.

Sincerely,

Alicia Horton
Executive Director

2018 Spring Impact

It's Harder To Apply For A Job Than To Do The Job

By Cassandra, Thrive DC Volunteer

Mr. Jones and I spent 20 minutes painstakingly filling out an job application online. He listed every past employer in his life (which totaled only two, because he'd worked for his family business for forty years until the store was forced to close).

There was just one last question that stood between him and stocking pet food in the middle of the night: "Can we check your credit history?" The question made him hesitate, because past medical expenses had ruined Mr. Jones's credit and he was afraid this would make him a weak candidate.

He clicked "No" and was immediately kicked out of the application process.

Cassandra helping a client

To say that applying for a minimum wage job is tedious and personally invasive is an understatement. But the most frustrating part of volunteering with the employment program is knowing that nearly all of these men have a strong work ethic and employment history; their greatest obstacle is simply their lack of computer skills.

There are virtually no jobs today that one can apply for without a computer. The absence of computer skills means it generally takes a client almost twice as long as someone else to apply online. Not owning a computer also means that clients have to use public computer labs: which is helpful and frustrating at the same time since they're often limited to just an hour each session.

In addition to struggling with technology and invasive questions, there are simple logistics Thrive DC's clients have to overcome that make it really hard to work, such as: a lack of transportation, a lack of a professional wardrobe, lack of child care, and especially lack of a college degree.

Nearly every employer wants their employees to have a college degree regardless of the skill level needed to perform the job.

Despite the long odds, I'm happy to have been a part of many success stories with the employment program. At least half of the clients ultimately find employment thanks to the support of their case manager and the other volunteers in the computer lab.

Besides – it's all worth it when a client tells you with a BIG smile that he's finally got a new job!

Power your community.

Save The Date!

May 17th—18th

12:00 PM—12:00 PM

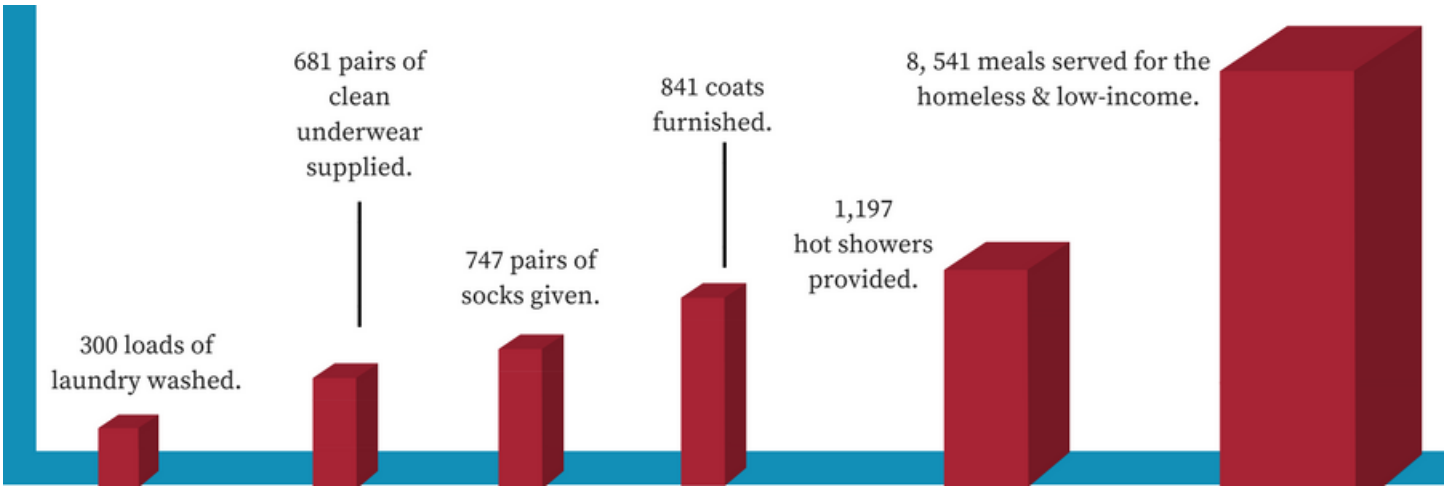
Do More 24 is coming! These 24 hours of giving help nonprofits all over the Greater Washington region raise money for critical projects in their community.

This year Thrive DC is raising $20,000 to help cover the cost of meals and emergency services for our homeless clients over the summer. Since the city no longer supports these basic services, we need a lot of help from the community to help our clients make it day-to-day.

You can provide a full day of meals to over 250 people in need for just $423.

To support our clients during Do More 24, either save the date and donate through our website on May 17th or 18th, or simply complete the envelope enclosed in this report with your gift. Thank you!

January through March - Your Impact



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www.thrivedc.org

"Last week I explained to a client that he could get his mail delivered here. He was so amazed and grateful that he could do this."

"It made me realize that so many of the things we take for granted are actually a huge hassle for our homeless clients to access." - Kenneth, Intern