

MARY'S HOUSE FOR OLDER ADULTS



A LGBTQ-SGL Friendly Residence Providing safe and affordable communal environments to adults over 60

Mary's House for Older Adults, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation incorporated in the District of Columbia, September 2012. The vision of Mary's House for Older Adults (MHFOA) is to create affordable, independent, communal housing for older adults that will eliminate the intense social isolation experienced because of aging and by subtle and not so subtle discrimination and intolerance based on one's sexual orientation and identity. MHFOA seeks to create living environments that celebrates and honors the whole person as they age, no matter who they are.

The mission of Mary's House for older adults is to provide safe and affordable housing environments, the first brick and mortar will be built in Washington, DC for adults over 60 years of age, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and same gender-loving (LGBTQ/SGL) individuals.

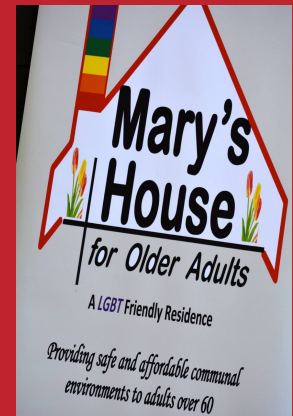
MHFOA will develop brick and mortar housing targeting the cultural and relational needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/same gender loving (LGBTQ/SGL) elders. Our first communal living home will be built in Washington, DC. Our vision is to build a Mary's House in every ward in the District of Columbia as well as every state and territory in the Union. We know that there is not enough affordable and culturally competent housing available to older adults, especially for LGBTQ/SGL people. Therefore, we educate on and advocate for issues germane to elders, LGBTQ/SGL elders in particular, emphasizing their issues, including the lack of safe and affordable housing as a public health issue.



Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton at Public Showing of Mary's House

The Story:

This project originated with the President and Chief Executive Officer of Mary's House, Dr. Imani Woody. Her father, an active citizen in the City, had a stroke and had to be placed in a nursing home. Being middle class, he went to a "good" nursing/retirement home. Even though he had Dr. Woody, her wife, and other family to look out and advocate for him, he went in the nursing home continent, and left incontinent.



Dr. Woody wondered what would have happened to him had he been an out gay old man or an old lesbian or an old transgender senior? Shortly, thereafter, she learned that a friend of the community had died – in an upscale retirement community. He died alone and was found five days later. These situations are still happening in our City and across the country. The research tells us, that LGBTQ/SGL seniors often live alone and do not have children that traditionally care for parents. Still others have lost most of their peers through the AIDS/HIV epidemic.