



A Night of Hope

For Homeless Youth in the District
and Prince George's County

The Hamilton

April
23
2026

6 - 9 pm



The Benefit Committee

Anne Esposito
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Blerta Picari
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Bruce Finland
Carl Davis
Christopher Addison
Cristian Pimentel
Danielle Russin
David Adeleye
Deborah Both
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Reba McGinnis
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Tiffany McClintock
Toni Bush
Will Bruno
Elizabeth Stevens
Indira Neufville



A Reflection From Our Co-Chairs

Each year, young people come to Sasha Bruce in search of hope, and for more than 50 years, that hope has been transformed into real, lasting change for youth in Washington, D.C., and Prince George's County. Through access to housing, counseling, and emergency services, **Sasha Bruce not only meets urgent needs but also gives young people the belief that their future can be different.**

What makes Sasha Bruce truly exceptional is not only how it supports young people through some of their most difficult moments, but how it helps them build lasting resilience, purpose, and a path forward. Many leave not only with stability, but with a deep commitment to community and giving back. This creates a ripple effect that strengthens the next generation.

At Sasha Bruce Youthwork, we see every day just how urgently hope is needed. Now more than ever, we must keep that hope alive for the young people in our community who need it most. Sasha Bruce doesn't just provide services, it changes lives, helping young people believe in themselves, see a future they may have never imagined, and find the strength and support to build it.

Tonight, you will hear directly from some of the young people who embody the transformative power of Sasha Bruce Youthwork. **These remarkable individuals will share their journeys and how supporters like you help Sasha Bruce create pathways to independence.**

A portrait of Jackie Bush, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a dark sleeveless top, smiling.

Jackie
Bush

A portrait of Joshua Raymond, a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red patterned tie, smiling.

Joshua
Raymond

About Us



Since 1974, Sasha Bruce Youthwork has stood alongside young people facing extraordinary challenges, grounded in the belief that every young person deserves a safe, supportive place to call home.

Resilience is at the heart of our mission. We walk with youth through instability and hardship, supporting their growth, healing, and transformation. We know that homelessness is not an identity; it is a moment in time. With the right support, that moment can give way to hope and a future filled with possibility.

In our region, **thousands of young people experience homelessness or housing instability** each year, often driven by the high cost of living and lack of accessible housing.

Even amid shifting federal priorities and funding uncertainties, our commitment remains unshaken. We will continue to advocate for young people and deliver the services they rely on to survive and thrive.

With your help, we are building pathways from crisis to stability, and from resilience to brilliance, one young person at a time.

Our Vision

Our vision is a community in which young people and families have access to the opportunities and services they need to succeed.

Our Mission

Our mission is to enhance the lives of youth who run away, experience homelessness, abuse, and/or neglect along with their families in the Washington, DC metro area. Our objectives are to transform the systems that these young people are part of, to promote community, to foster connections and to nurture healthy relationships.

Our Story

In 1974, Deborah Shore started a small but powerful effort in the basement of Christ Church in Georgetown to support young people experiencing homelessness. Two years later, the organization became Sasha Bruce Youthwork, named in memory of Sasha Bruce, a young woman devoted to helping others. Her spirit continues to inspire our work.

We opened **Sasha Bruce House in 1977**, the first and only youth emergency shelter in the District at the time. **Since then, we've grown into a network of 27+ programs** offering housing, family strengthening, life skills, mental health care, education, workforce readiness, and more, creating spaces like **Olaiya's Cradle** for pregnant and parenting youth, the **Independent Living programs** for young adults.

In recent years, we've deepened our focus on prevention. We opened the Barracks Row Drop-In Center in 2012, followed by Promise Place in Prince George's County in 2013. In 2021, we launched Thrive House, expanding innovative models for housing and rapid support. Most recently, in 2023, we introduced the Resilience Project, a direct cash transfer initiative, and were selected by the Department of Health and Human Services to lead youth homelessness prevention efforts in Prince George's County.

From basement beginnings to community-wide impact, your support has made it possible to walk alongside young people with care, creativity, and unwavering resolve.

Resilience takes root when we rise together.



Evening Program

Opening Performance

by Sasha Bruce Youth Poet Eugene Thompson

Welcome from Benefit Co-Chairs

Jackie Bush and Josh Raymond

Remarks from Board Chair

Nate Oleson

Community Conversation: Voices of Impact

Debby Shore, Flo White, Joshua Keeton, and Pinky Killacorn in conversation with Emmy Award–Winning NBC4 Anchor Molette Green.

Musical Performance

Pinky Killacorn performs alongside Too Much Talent Band

The Sasha Bruce Youthwork (SBY)

Pathways to Independence Awards Presentation

The SBY Leadership Award: Flo White

The SBY Rising Star Award: Joshua Keeton

The SBY Youth Empowerment Award: Pinky Killacorn

The SBY Community Service Award: Conner Brown & Houston Pingley

The SBY Sustained Philanthropy Award: Jim & Phyllis Bruyette

Live Auction & Raise-A-Paddle by

Michael Bonini to support SBY youth services

Closing Reflections & Gratitude



The Talent



TOO MUCH TALENT BAND

Founded in 2017 by Sterling Anderson and James N Berry II, Too Much Talent Band brings an electrifying mix of Hip-Hop, R&B, Pop, Soul, Funk, and Jazz to every performance. Known for their incredible musicianship and dynamic energy, the band features some of the DMV's finest talent, including the legendary Dwight "King Sax" Washington. Whether playing a wedding, concert, or community event, Too Much Talent creates unforgettable, feel-good experiences that get everyone moving.





Flo White

2026 - Winner

The Sasha Bruce Youthwork Leadership Award

Flo White's journey is a powerful testament to resilience and leadership. After leaving home at 17 and experiencing housing instability, she found support at Sasha Bruce Youthwork's Drop-In Center, where she now serves as a Case Manager. As both a trusted support for young people and a founding member of The Curb Youth Advisory Council, Flo uses her lived experience to advocate for others and help shape a more responsive, compassionate system of care.



Joshua Keeton

2026 - Winner

The Sasha Bruce Youthwork Rising Star Award

Joshua Keeton is an emerging leader whose commitment to uplifting others is rooted in his own journey. After receiving support at Promise Place in Prince George's County, Joshua secured stable housing and became an active member of The Curb Youth Advisory Council. Today, he channels his passion into mentoring youth as a basketball coach and community advocate, inspiring others to believe in their potential.



Houston Pingley

2026 - Winner

The Sasha Bruce Youthwork Community Service Award

Houston Pingley's journey reflects strength, growth, and a deep commitment to personal transformation. After overcoming substance use challenges, he is now focused on his education and building a stable future while residing at Sasha Bruce Youthwork's Philip Reid House. Through his dedication and positive outlook, Houston inspires those around him and embodies the power of second chances.



Conner Brown

2026 - Winner

The Sasha Bruce Youthwork Community Service Award

Conner Brown exemplifies resilience and determination. After experiencing homelessness and involvement with the justice system, he is now focused on building a stable and positive future. Recently moving into permanent supportive housing, Conner continues to demonstrate growth, perseverance, and a commitment to giving back; reminding us that new beginnings are always possible.



Pinky Killacorn

2026 - Winner

The Sasha Bruce Youthwork Youth Empowerment Award

Pinky Killacorn is a dynamic artist, advocate, and proud Sasha Bruce Youthwork alumna. Through her creative voice and lived experience, she empowers young people to heal, express themselves, and grow. Today, Pinky gives back by leading music therapy at Bruce House, creating safe and inspiring spaces for youth to explore their creativity and build confidence.



Jim & Phyllis Bruyette

2026 - Winner

The Sasha Bruce Youthwork Sustained Philanthropy Award

Jim and Phyllis Bruyette are dedicated champions of Sasha Bruce Youthwork, whose generosity and personal commitment have made a lasting impact. From transformative investments to creating meaningful experiences for young people, like outings to Great Falls and pumpkin patch visits, the Bruyettes lead with both heart and action. Their steadfast support continues to strengthen our mission and expand opportunities for the youth we serve.

Featured Auction Items

Bid generously and take home something unforgettable! Our auction features both Live and Silent items, with all proceeds directly supporting our mission. Silent Auction items are available for online bidding throughout the event. Live Auction items can only be won during the live portion of the evening, so get ready to raise your paddle!

LIVE AUCTION – BID IN PERSON ONLY

- Beachfront villa, Puerto Escondido, Mexico
- Four works by artists Lou Stovall and Di Bagley Stovall
- Exclusive Asian-Italian dinner with Chef Sophie Wang and Chef Michael Leonard in your own home

SILENT AUCTION – BID ONLINE

- Golf Day and lunch at River Bend (Great Falls)
- New York Jewellery designer Briony Raymond's debut fragrance
- Two premium tickets to see the Washington Capitals at Capital One Arena — Just six rows from the glass!
- Four Baltimore Ravens Tickets
- Two Round-Trip Flights with Southwest Airlines
- And more unique gifts and experiences!

[Start Bidding](#)



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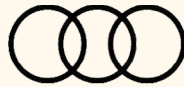
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V E N N

S T R A T E G I E S

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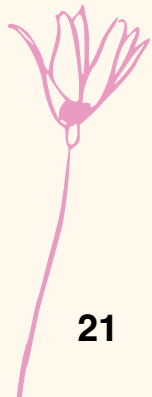
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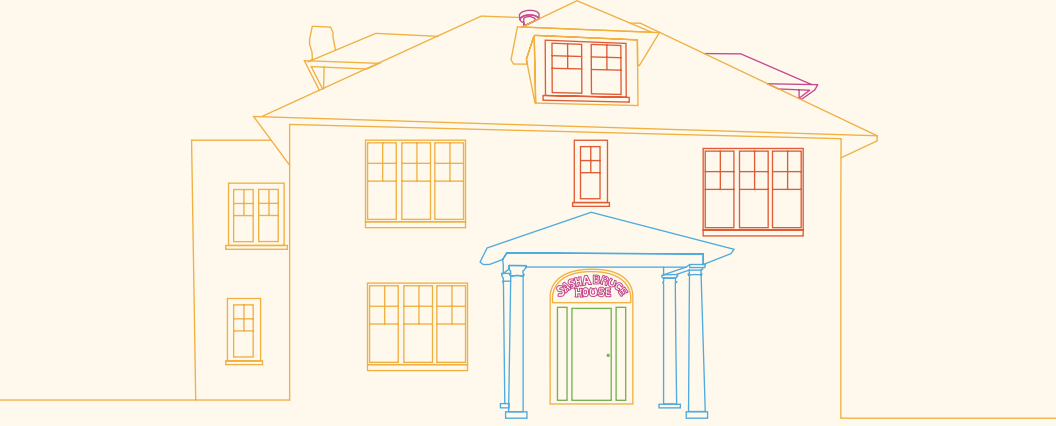
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Chef Sophie Wang and Chef Michael Leonard
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