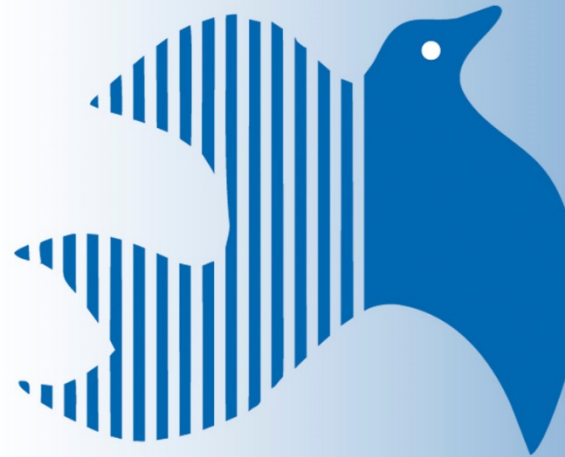


The Fortune Society

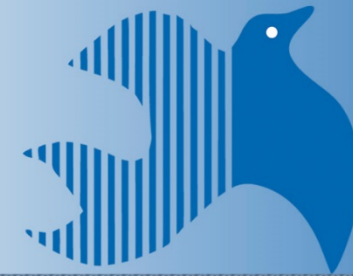
Those Closest to the Problem, Closest to the Solution



Khalil A. Cumberbatch, Associate Vice President of Policy

September 13, 2018
Twitter: @thefortunesoc

The Fortune Society at a Glance



The Fortune Society's **mission** is to support successful reentry from incarceration and promote alternatives to incarceration, thus strengthening the fabric of our communities.

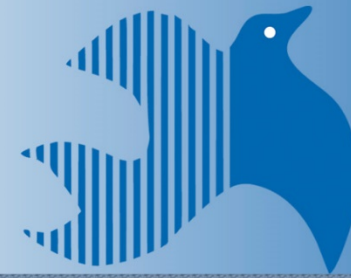
The Fortune Society's **vision** is to foster a world where all who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated will thrive as positive, contributing members of society.



We approach our work with three core **values**:
We believe in the power of individuals to change;

We build lives through service programs shaped by the needs and experience of our clients;
We change minds through education and advocacy to promote the creation of a fair, humane, and truly rehabilitative correctional system.

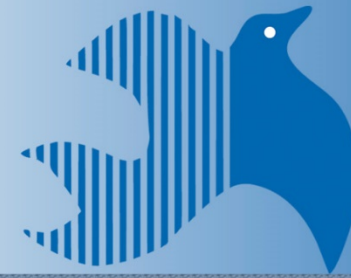
Supportive Services at Fortune



- ✓ Behavioral Health Treatment
- ✓ Creative Arts Programming
- ✓ Education Classes
- ✓ Employment Services
- ✓ Entitlement Applications
- ✓ Family Support Services
- ✓ Food and Nutrition Programs
- ✓ Health Services
- ✓ Housing Programs and Assistance
- ✓ Mental Health Treatment
- ✓ Release Preparation
- ✓ Substance Abuse Treatment
- ✓ David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy



A Focus on Housing: “The Castle”

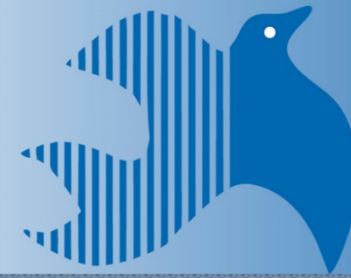


A photo of the abandoned former girl's school, St. Walburga's Academy of the Holy Child Jesus, on The Fortune Society's purchase date in 1998.



The Fortune Academy after restoration in 2002 and Castle Gardens, Fortune's permanent housing building which opened in 2010.

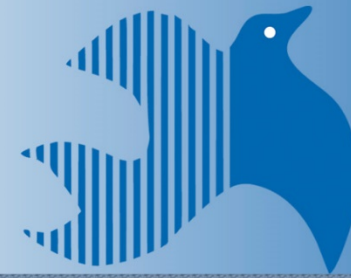
Exercise: Collective Brainstorming



What obstacles might a person leaving incarceration expect to face when trying to secure housing?



Available Housing Options



So then where do people with justice involvement coming home live?!

Market Rate & Affordable Housing

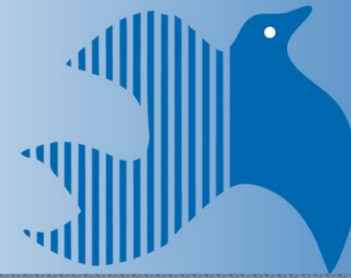
Supportive Housing

Public Housing

Shelter System

Other





Interactive Exercise: Where Should I Live?

Directions:

- ✓ Around the room there are signs representing the different housing types just discussed.
- ✓ You will see a series of slides describing an individual's housing needs.
- ✓ Decide what housing option you feel may be best for this person and go stand by the sign representing that option. Afterwards you will be shown the correct answer and reason(s).
- * If moving around the room presents a challenge for you, please raise your hand and our presenters will provide you with signs to raise at your seat.

Market Rate & Affordable

Public Housing



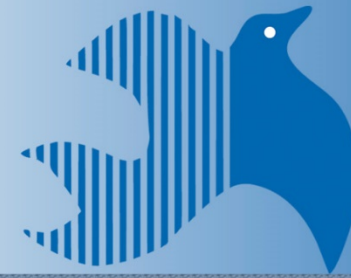
Supportive Housing

Shelter System



George





George was released from a correctional facility after sixteen years, he is now 63.

Through his reentry program, he is working to manage his mental health needs and continue the care he was receiving while incarcerated.

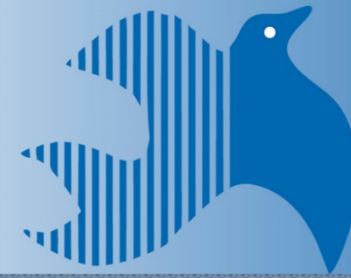
He is enrolled in creative arts therapy programming and has excellent attendance.

He has been volunteering at the local community center and has great character references from the staff there.

George has successfully maintained his sobriety after a 30 year struggle with substance use and participates in relapse prevention programming as required by his parole officer.

He has regularly reported to parole.

Where does George live?



George lives in a shelter!

George was incarcerated for sixteen years and doesn't have any connection left to his family so he has no one he can stay with.

He has no way to get in touch with his landlords from sixteen years ago, so he has no landlord references.

His credit was ruined when his bills went into collections during his time inside.

Once landlords find out that he had a violent felony conviction, they won't return his calls.

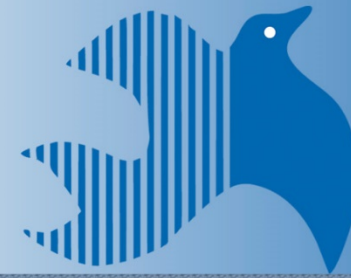
He is not chronically homeless under the current definition and because he was recently released from prison, he was not considered homeless until he entered the shelter system.

His case managers are desperately trying to get him into supportive housing as fast as possible, but demand is high and supply is limited so he is on several waitlists.



Stacy





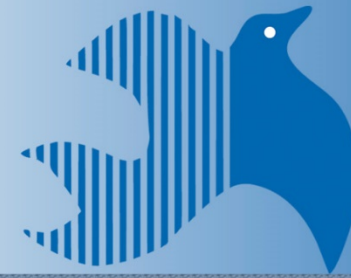
Stacy was released from Rikers Island 7 months ago and by way of her discharge planner she was informed about HIV/AIDS Services Administration (“HASA”) services.

She is receiving ongoing services from her assigned Human Resource Administration (HRA) case manager including employment and vocational services, transportation assistance, a rental subsidy, SNAP benefits, and more.

Since her release, Stacy has turned 38, been attending AA meetings and doing well maintaining her sobriety.

Stacy has slowly begun repairing relationships with her family and is focused on her health.

Where does Stacy live?



Stacy lives in an affordable housing unit!

Since Stacy is receiving public assistance benefits she is able to reside in an affordable unit arranged by her case manager & does not pay more than 30 percent of her monthly earned and/or unearned income toward the cost of rent pursuant to the Social Services law.

Currently, Stacy is in a legal battle suing a landlord who discriminated against her on the basis of her HASA assistance when she applied for an available one bedroom unit.

It is a violation of the New York City Human Rights Law for landlords or real estate brokers to refuse to rent to current or prospective tenants with public assistance vouchers. NYC has one of the strongest anti-discrimination laws in the nation.

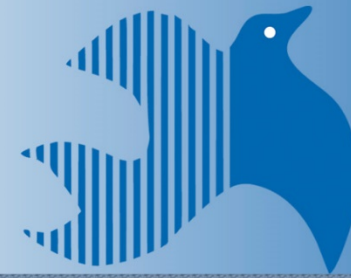
* Stacy had to live in a shelter for 6 months when she came home post release while looking for an available affordable unit that would accept her income and justice history.



Halimah



Halimah



Halimah was 24 when she was released from Rikers Island last year, after spending six months incarcerated for a misdemeanor offense because she was unable to pay bail.

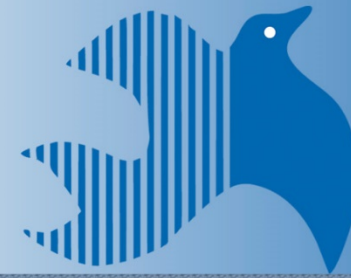
She has obtained a part-time job paying \$13.00 an hour, and she really likes her coworkers.

She also attends school three nights a week to obtain her license as a nurse's aide.

Her entire family lives in New York City Housing Authority (public housing).

She is responsible for caring for her younger sister while her mother works on the weekends.

Where does Halimah Live?



Halimah lives in a shelter!

Halimah was living in public housing with her family at the time of her arrest, the public housing authority threatened to evict the entire family on the basis of her arrest.

Instead, Halimah's mother made the difficult decision to permanently exclude Halimah from the residence so that the rest of her family could remain there.

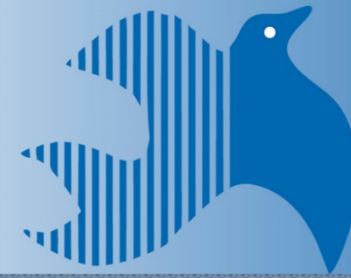
Halimah is desperately hoping to be enrolled in NYCHA's relatively new Reunification Program which allows her to live in the home with her family, on a probationary basis, while receiving supportive case management services from Fortune.

If there are no further incidents, then she can apply to be added back to her family's lease.



Derrick

Derrick



Derrick has been home for 7 years, he is 42 years old, he has been incarcerated twice- once as a youthful offender and the second time for a burglary.

Derrick has been employed at the same Warehouse for 5 years.

He was promoted to night shift supervisor last year.

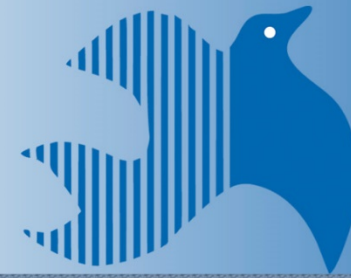
His income supports rent for a 1 bedroom apartment with a cap of \$1,500, his annual income is \$60,000.

He recently received his certificate of good conduct from the Judge.

He is registered to vote in New York.

He would be residing by himself in the one bedroom apartment.

Where does Derrick live?



Derrick lives in a shelter!

He has applied to hundreds, maybe even thousands, of market rate and affordable housing units but because of his prior felony conviction and lack of references from prior landlords he is consistently discriminated against.

Although his certificate of good conduct displays that there is growth and change in his character, due to his felony being related to violent behavior and loss of property, private landlords will not consider him and his application for New York City Housing Authority (public housing) is still under investigation.

Derrick's only option is to remain in the shelter system until he can find a more permanent solution.



Question & Answer

