



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**AUTHOR:** STEPHANIE BOOKER  
FOUNDER / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



1  
A-4 47TH STREET ELEVATION (East Facing Facade)  
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

*AHARI Village, a veteran affordable housing development*



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3 APARTMENTS  
OWNER CONTACT:

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Notes/Revisions:

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Job #: 2019018  
**AQ**

**WE ARE**

*Stronger Together*



## FOUNDER'S STATEMENT

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Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a wonderful year for AHARI – A Home Is A Right, Inc. We reached significant milestones, the most remarkable of which we received enough funding to hire seven staff members, five of which were at-risk veterans, to provide nutritious food to over 1200 families via our “Mobile Hunger Relief Program.” Yet even as we celebrate, we must acknowledge that there are over 2,000 homeless veterans in the Greater Philadelphia region. As we move into 2021, the plight of homeless and at-risk veterans, which include under-served communities of women and people of color, becomes even more evident as

the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected these vets in many ways. The pandemic has highlighted the lack of job security, savings, and insurance; it emphasized the barriers they face in accessing food, housing, income, and mental and physical healthcare; and it also highlighted veteran and active military women’s vulnerability to increased gender violence. Our vets will continue to face the long-term consequences of this global crisis, with low-income women bearing the greatest burden.

**STEPHANIE BOOKER**

*Founder / Executive Director*



Much of the work we began in 2020 has enabled us to respond effectively to the pandemic's unique challenges. To name just a few examples: We launched our "Mobile Hunger Relief Program," Leadership and Diversity for Regulators program, and strengthened our infrastructure which has allowed us to build a strong presence in the community we serve.

I am pleased to acknowledge my Executive Board members: Sergeant Major Rodney Little (Board Chair), Cathy Garrett-Davis (Member), Jahi Ali-Bey (Member), Imani Badie (Member), Harry Graham (Member), Pearl Ragin-Hall (Member), Rommie L. Parker (Member), Tyson Smith (Member), Marlana Smith (Member), Billie Steel (Member).

I appointed Sgt. Major Little as our Board Chair in December 2019 to help reconstruct the board and bring in new talent. He has recruited an Attorney, CPA, and Construction Manager in just a short period of time. The remaining members have brought in revenue and resources that are imperative for the growth of AHARI.

On May 11, 2021, AHARI celebrates its ten-year anniversary! In 2021 we plan to: take aggressive action in obtaining approval of our qualifying application for five city parcels to erect AHARI Village, a 10-15-unit low-income housing development for our veterans and their families • To develop a revenue stream outside of grants as we build AHARI Village; To increase digital marketing, public relations, and acquire strategic corporate sponsorship • Implement "We All Have Mental Health" public awareness campaign • expand our AHARI WRAP program • and establish three strategic service delivery partnerships.

*"Every form of true education trains the student in self-reliance."*

-John Henrik Clarke

Last, but not least, I want to acknowledge our top funders whose giving has allowed AHARI to serve, hire, and support other NPOs as well as our own transition. The SBA, PPP, EDIL, Juvia's Place, and other grants helped AHARI to transition from a "Grassroots Organization" to being a "Major Player" in the veterans' services category.

We are proud of all the accomplishments presented in this 2020 Annual Report. Today's global crisis has made it clear that we are stronger together. Let us work together to ensure that veterans and their families will have access to safe affordable housing, life skills training, financial literacy, diversity, and inclusion as essential tools for them to be self-sufficient.

**A HOME IS A RIGHT!**

*Stephanie  
Booker*

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Three Ways to Give



## MISSION

To provide permanent supportive housing for homeless and at-risk veterans and their families to help them become self-sufficient. AHARI is committed to establishing collaborations with other nonprofit organizations with a similar passion that provide housing, programming, and auxiliary support services.

## VISION

To eradicate Veteran homelessness in the City of Philadelphia by providing homeless Veterans with access to safe, quality, affordable housing, resources, and supportive services that help veterans become self-sufficient and create longevity in economic competence.

## AHARI'S CAUSE

According to a recent report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 21% of veterans in a substance abuse treatment program were also homeless. One in ten of those who are homeless are veterans, 50 percent are disabled, and three-quarters of homeless veterans have mental health issues. Another 1.4 million veterans are at-risk for homelessness, because of poverty, lack of support networks, and overcrowded housing. Half a million veterans pay more than half of their income in rent. There is also a strong emphasis on data collection and analysis in the movement to end veteran homelessness. Data collected in Housing Management Information Systems (HMIS), such as length of stays at homeless shelters or transitional housing, where veterans place on vulnerability indices, and data regarding their utilization of crisis services are all factored into housing decisions, with the goal of ensuring the right services are offered at the right time; these factors can compound putting them at an even greater risk of homelessness than the general population. The report also indicated that there were growing percentages of women who did not report military sexual trauma (MST) because they feared reprisals from their coworkers and were concerned that their accusations would not be believed. To further compound the issues of MST, a report issued by Yale Law School's Veterans Legal Services focused on the health consequences that survivors of MST face as they adjust to civilian life.



It was noted that claims for veteran benefits for women due to PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) are more often related to MST as compared with rates of combat-related PTSD that men seek. The VA estimates that female veterans are at least twice as likely to be homeless as non-veteran women. At the same time, other individuals suggest that the figure is much higher. While it appears to be a challenge to quantify, there is an agreement that it is a growing concern.

In addition, women veterans are more apt to be single parents, with other issues associated with homelessness that may include unemployment, poor mental and/or physical health, and substance use disorders. As a result, our targeted population, our "Heroes," our veterans who have returned home from several wars and conflicts securing our nation, its freedom, and our democracy, require a great deal of attention, including mental health support, help to navigate bureaucratic systems to secure veterans entitlements, career opportunities, family counseling, and safe and affordable housing.

From veterans experiencing untimely access to care for their PTSD, substance abuse, and other mental health issues to being ignored by the country they have served, a cultish homeless infrastructure has developed. Group support among themselves where they are not judged, shunned, or abandoned. Finally, the conditions that many reside and live in are appalling and atrocious.

Our Heroes deserve so much more and it is AHARI's mission to see that our veterans receive support, all of their entitlements along with safe and affordable housing.

**A HOME IS A RIGHT!**

## AHARI'S CHALLENGES

AHARI's greatest need at this time is having one central location to administer services and programming and provide housing. AHARI's greatest challenge has been obtaining blighted properties and donated lots to erect, AHARI VILLAGE, the low-income housing development for our Veterans. Over the last three years, AHARI has applied for three donated properties, and all three times AHARI was not invited to the competitive sales. The properties were sold to large developers who then developed and sold to middle to upper-class buyers. AHARI and smaller businesses are not given an opportunity to compete. AHARI received the support of two city officials and submitted its fourth application. AHARI now is awaiting a response.

# Engaging & Collaborating to Meet Needs

Growing Our  
Influence Through  
Action-Oriented  
Engagement



**6**

**EVENTS**

**10**

**PARTNERSHIPS**

**12K**

**SERVED**

Again, despite COVID-19 and a global pandemic, AHARI during the 3rd and 4th quarters hosted six (6) MASSIVE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS with ten partners and serviced over 12,000 veterans and community members. Also, within our HUNGER RELIEF program, AHARI provided home-cooked meals to 1,800 Veterans, gave 500 families turkeys and Thanksgiving baskets and provided twenty \$25.00 Shoprite gift cards for program completion.



# Engaging & Collaborating to Meet Needs

Growing Our Influence Through  
Action-Oriented Engagement

6

**EVENTS**

10

**PARTNERSHIPS**

12K

**SERVED**

AHARI partnered with Councilwoman Gauthier, the Honorable Janie Blackwell, Caring For Friends, Share The Food Program, Philabundance, The Church of the Overcomers, Church of Christian Compassion, The Revelation Church, Genesis 3, and NEAR - Northeast Against Racism.

AHARI was also able to provide fresh produce, non-perishables, baked goods, and household items including two Quasar Electric Heaters, two Air Fryers, 500 Coats, and 300 Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Socks, and Earmuffs.

AHARI facilitated six classes to teach WRAP-Wellness Recovery Action Plan and provided 39 state certifications. Individual and group peer support was also provided.



# 2021 STRATEGY & GOALS

AHARI will take decisive action in obtaining approval of our qualifying application for five city parcels to erect AHARI Village, a 10-15-unit low-income housing development for our veterans and their families. We have confirmed the application is in the review process. AHARI will also hire Jennifer Lewis, Senior Project Manager of Stone Sherick Consulting Group to help secure \$750,000.00 funding from FHLB-Pittsburgh.

AHARI will develop a revenue stream outside of grants as we build AHARI Village. We will begin by providing Train the Trainer courses to educate facilitators, managers, service providers, businesses, customer service organizations, government offices, and more on the nuances of the veteran community and how to best engage this community.

AHARI will seek over \$1M in funding and food, clothing, and housewares donations from new and previous sources including Hanes, Shoprite, Caring For Friends, Blessing of Hope, SHARE Food Program, Philabundance, One Warm Coat Operations, U-Haul, Herra Foods, WaWa, BomBos Socks, FHLB-Pittsburgh, FHLB-New York, Fulton Bank, SBA PPP, SBA EIDL, Veterans Trust Fund

AHARI will add marketing interns to the team to increase its cause awareness and outreach via email and social media marketing, and implement our public awareness campaign "We All Have Mental Health" to help dispel stigmatism around mental health that bias among people and entities our veterans have to encounter.

AHARI will increase individual and group donations via new fundraising software and targeted campaigns for United Way and Philadelphia Combined Giving.  
AHARI will host one large fundraiser for 2021 with a goal to raise \$100K  
AHARI will seek strategic corporate sponsorship  
AHARI will establish another three strategic service delivery partnerships

## AHARI WRAP

MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL &  
PHYSICAL WELLNESS  
MEETS SELF-MASTERY

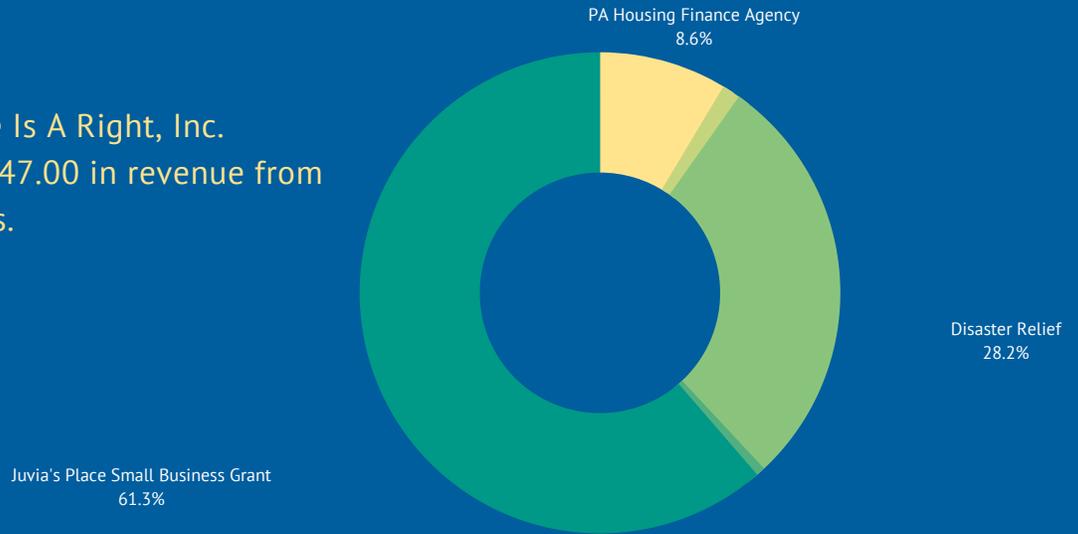
2021 will feature the expansion of AHARI WRAP as a multifaceted program designed to empower participants to recognize and manage their mental, behavioral, and physical wellness based on the foundation of the W.R.A.P. (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) modality developed by Mary Ellen Copeland, Ph.D.

AHARI WRAP partners with professional and community entities to provide quality support and access to needed services so participants may succeed with their goals. From assessment, appropriate program placement, transportation services, meals, monitoring, wellness checks to quarterly wellness retreats, WalkNWellness™ 11 module program, and outdoor recreation, AHARI WRAP provides a holistic framework and tools to empower participants to develop sustainable habits and be self-sufficient.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

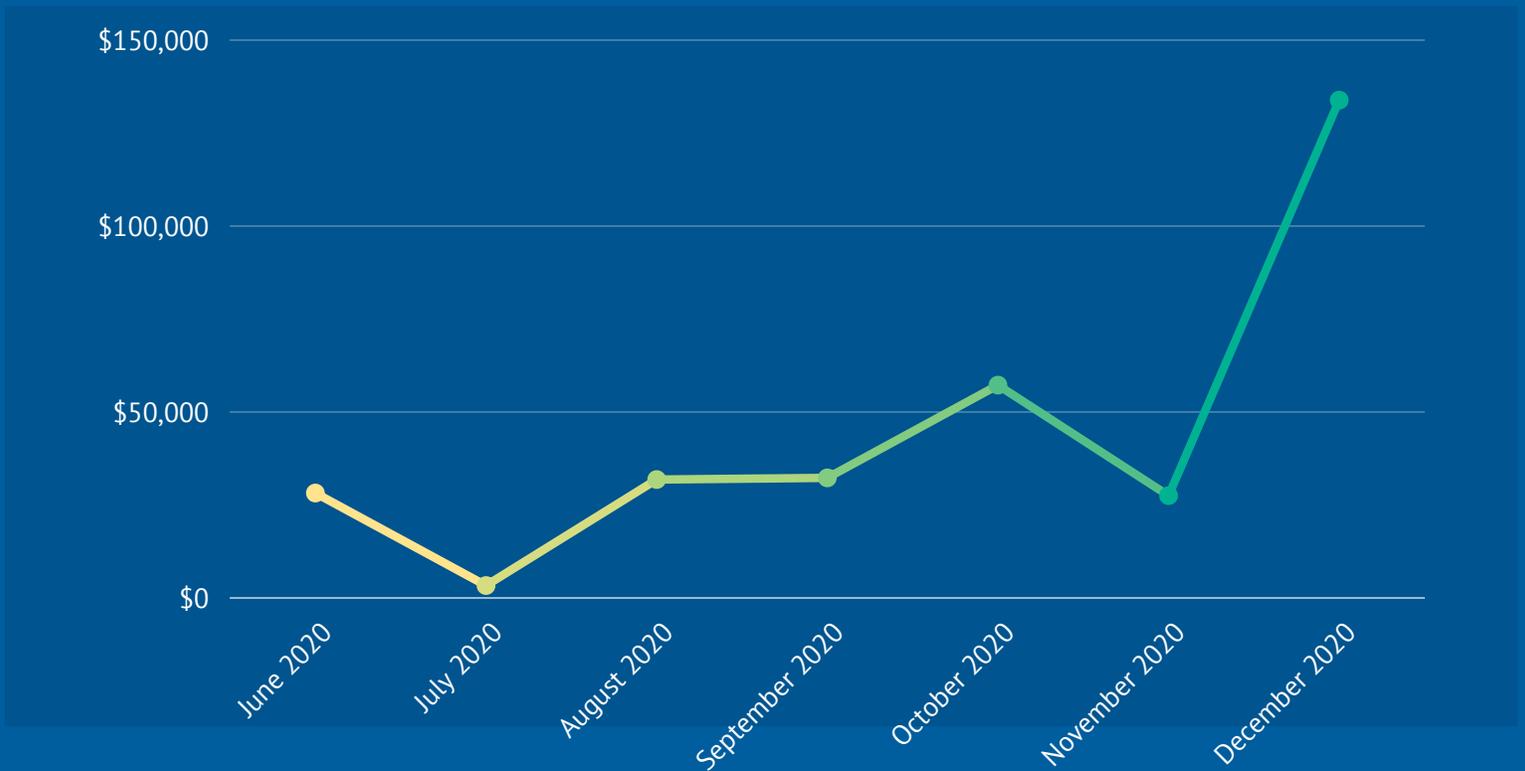
AHARI - A Home Is A Right, Inc. received \$101,747.00 in revenue from grants and loans and spent \$4,600 for over \$300,000.00 in food and product donations.

AHARI - A Home Is A Right, Inc. received \$101,747.00 in revenue from grants and loans.



## FOOD & PRODUCT DONATIONS VALUE

*A See page 10 for list of donors*





UNITED WAY  
Donor #54826

PHILA. COMBINED  
GIVING CAMPAIGN  
DONOR #30-0093

www.aharihomes.org



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