



# Unveiling Hidden Communities at Permanent Supportive Housing

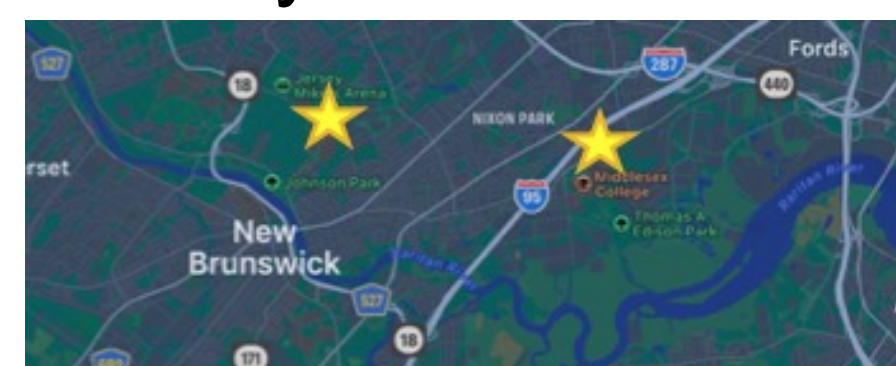
Ronald Gibson, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School  
Yinin Li, Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy  
Hailey D. Zito, Rutgers School of Nursing

**Site Preceptor:** Melissa Mascolo, Director of Program Management, Mission First Housing - Edison



## Host Organization

Mission First Housing Group is a full-service, nonprofit affordable housing organization developing high-quality, green community assets across the Mid-Atlantic region



**Mission Statement:** Develop and manage affordable, equitable, safe, sustainable homes that support residents and strengthen communities

**Eligibility:** Must meet The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness, income must be at or below \$28,000, have US citizenship, be a person with a disability, and pass a criminal background check

**Programs:** Social service programs provided by community partners including Volunteers of America (VOA), PennReach, Jewish Renaissance Foundation (JRF) and NJ Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES)

## Background

**Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** a housing model designed to provide housing assistance and supportive services on a long-term basis to people who formerly experienced homelessness (HUD)

**In 2020, approximately 580,000 individuals in the US were found to be homeless and in New Jersey specifically there were 9,662 people experiencing homelessness (HUD)**

**Social Determinants of Health (SDOH):** the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life (WHO)



## Objectives

- Conduct needs-based assessment to determine approach to community
- Craft workshops that educate, empower and uplift residents
- Lead individual case management to redirect them to social services
- Engage children in educational and recreational activities
- Encourage implementation of independent living skills
- Connect residents with sustainable resources

## Long Term Implications

Art Installation

- 2023 General Operating Support and Program Support II Grant

NJAES Series

- Nutrition educator will discuss healthy eating with NJSNAP and budgeting

## Workshops

### Gardening, Painting, and Water Balloons! Oh My!

- Planted seeds and instructed how to care for plant
- Painted terracotta pots
- Taught breathing exercises
- Played organized activities with water balloons

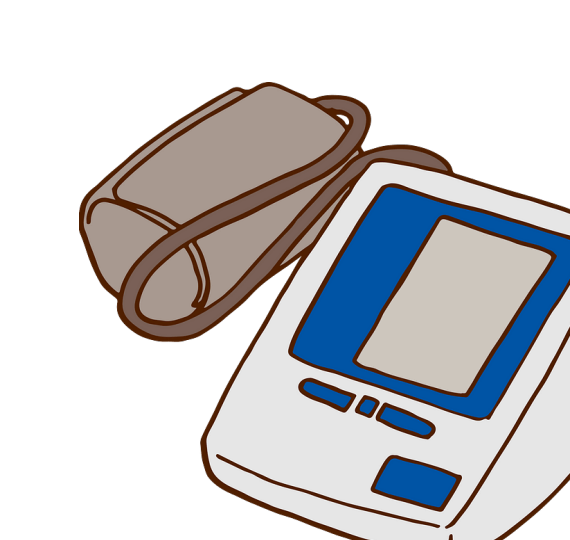


### Children's Story Time and Movie Night

- Collaborated with Edison Public Library
- Shared resources from library with families
- Watched Disney's "Inside Out"
- Talked about emotions with discussion questions

### Jewish Renaissance Foundation (JRF) Events

- Encouraged residents to receive blood pressure and blood glucose readings
- Discussed health literacy and mistrust in the healthcare system
- Read "Andre's Armor" by Mohamed Jalloh



### Household Management

- Shared the health and safety benefits of cleaning
- Reviewed regular cleaning schedules
- Provided tips for general pest control
- Created homemade, natural cleaning supplies



## Individual Case Management

Provide additional support related to residents' housing stability, wellness needs, goals, and resource navigation. With the residents' permission, we documented their stories of arriving to PSH and their progress toward reaching their goals.



## Challenges

social services  
surveys health literacy  
**engagement**  
resident feedback case management  
mistrust  
external resources

## Acknowledgements

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WELCOME HOME