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For Immediate Release

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## Herbert Bearman Foundation Supports MSH in Baltimore City

Main Street Housing, a non-profit housing organization in Maryland dedicated to the development of quality, affordable, independent housing for individuals and families with psychiatric disabilities and extremely low income, was recently awarded a generous grant from the Herbert Bearman Foundation in support of improvement and maintenance projects across their Baltimore City properties.

The Herbert Bearman Foundation, Inc., based in Baltimore, "funds projects that can make a difference to the well-being of individuals, either by enriching the lives of people in disadvantaged circumstances or benefiting the general community." MSH's rental properties are leased exclusively to individuals and families with psychiatric disabilities and extremely low income, with a priority for applicants coming from restrictive and unstable circumstances (i.e. psychiatric facilities and homelessness). In 2012, MSH expanded their housing development efforts into Baltimore City, and as of July 2015 they own and operate 8 rental units (4 single family homes and 4 apartments) with a total capacity of 14 Tenant Slots. Funds from the Herbert Bearman Foundation will support tenants living independently in the community through property improvements and maintenance projects across some of MSH's Baltimore City properties, including a roofing upgrade and installation of laundry machines.

Housing is a basic human need, and living in quality housing in neighborhoods of opportunity brings significant positive impact in overall health and well-being. Unfortunately, there is an overwhelming shortfall of quality, affordable housing in Maryland, and people with psychiatric disabilities face additional obstacles of stigmatizing attitudes about mental illness when competing with other low-income households for rental housing.

MSH has been continuously creating and sustaining supportive affordable housing options for people with psychiatric disabilities in diverse communities across Maryland for more than a decade. Their nationally recognized and award-winning "Main Street Model" emphasizes the principle of "supportive accountability" and provides a progressive alternative to segregated, congregate residential treatment settings. MSH currently provides rental housing opportunities for individuals and families in 11 Counties and Baltimore City.

Learn more about the Main Street Model and current activities at [www.mainstreethousing.org](http://www.mainstreethousing.org).

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