



*Photo credit: Jocelyn Augustino*

*Guiding people home*

## Working to end chronic homelessness in Washington, DC

**History and Mission:** Miriam's Kitchen is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization founded in 1983 in response to an urgent need for services for the homeless in downtown Washington, DC.

There are approximately 7,500 homeless people in Washington, DC and an estimated 1,764 of those individuals are **chronically** homeless – they're homeless for extended periods of time, and struggle with one or more mental or physical disabilities.

**These are the people we serve.** We advocate for permanent supportive housing as a long-term solution, while meeting short term needs in the following ways:

**Meals:** Miriam's Kitchen serves both breakfast and dinner Monday through Friday. All of our meals are made with fresh ingredients and because much of our food is donated to us by local farmers markets and grocery stores, each meal costs under \$1. We serve 200-300 homeless people each day and in 2015 served 79,107 meals.

**Case Management:** A variety of supportive services are available to our guests each day. Our case managers work with guests and we also partner with many organizations who bring their services to our dining room. In a warm and welcoming environment, we help our guests with:

Mental health services

Assistance applying for benefits

Clothing and toiletries

Medical services

Therapeutic art classes

Use of phone and mailing address

Legal services

Creative writing classes

Help finding housing

**Advocacy:** Right now, there's not enough housing for our guests. Our advocacy efforts focus on engaging our community and policy makers to create and sustain enough quality permanent supportive housing in DC.

**Permanent Supportive Housing:** Ending chronic homelessness in DC is possible. Permanent supportive housing is the answer. Permanent supportive housing couples permanent housing with supportive services that meet the specific needs of an individual. Miriam's Kitchen began a contract with the DC Department of Human Services Permanent Supportive Housing Program to provide supportive services for 95 people in PSH.