

FALL 2023 UPDATE

Summary

- Now serving 23 family and senior communities across DC, MD, and VA
- Reaching more than 7,600 residents and 3,750 households
- Steady pipeline of future communities in construction, financing, or proposal phase every year through 2026
- Now the nonprofit sponsor and majority shareholder of two communities
- Now contracted with 8 ownership groups and 4 management firms
- New grants, donations, contracts, and development fees support more programming
- Now running our core community program, bringing residents together with management, at 7 sites
- Eviction Prevention program launched, immediately successful in reducing rental debt by tens of thousands, now funded to expand
- Enterprise Program for entrepreneurs renewed with new, larger grant
- Innovative and expanded team, with a new board director, team managers, advisors, and partners!
- New board-led five-year strategic plan!



Penn Mar

New Community Partners -- Somerset Development + Habitat America

In September, Communities Together won a contract to provide two fulltime coordinators to **Hubbard Place**, a large, longstanding Somerset Development family community in Washington, D.C. Habitat America manages the community. After just two months of service, Residents, Somerset, and Habitat already report improvements in the quality of resident services and an improving relationship with the tenant association's leaders. For our part, we find an excellent alignment of values and best practices with Somerset Development.



Ashburn Chase

Awards:

The 2023 Construction Excellence Award of the MD Dept. of Housing & Community Development

and

**The 2023 Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery County
Award for Innovation**

Went to **KM Development Partners, EDG Architects, and Morgan-Keller Construction** for their work on **Silver Creek Senior Living** in Kensington, Maryland.

Communities Together is the nonprofit sponsor of Silver Creek, which opened in January 2022.

New Support

Communities Together adds value to its resident engagement services by raising grants and donations and broadening the services we coordinate. In 2023 we built our programs' reach with additional grants and donations highlighted by the following new infusions of support:

Well Fargo – a **\$25,000** grant for our **Eviction Prevention** program and our **Enterprise (“Mercaditos”)** program for several family communities in Maryland. We are very grateful to Wells Fargo for this first generous grant following their site visit.

Prince George’s County Local Development Council – **\$10,000** for Chromebooks and Affordable Internet access and training for our seniors in Ft. Washington.

United Bank – a **\$7,500** donation to support **Health and Wellness** and other programs at senior and family communities in Prince George’s County, Maryland. This, too, was a first-time donation, and we look forward to a lasting and growing relationship with United Bank.

HSBC – a fourth year of reliable support at the **\$5,000** level for **Neighbor Up**, our core community building program.



Enterprise (Mercaditos) Program

Neighbor Up

With support from the DC Housing Finance Agency (DCHFA) and HSBC, we have been able to train our entire team, community management teams, and resident volunteers in Neighbor Up, our core program of community building.

- Already under way at 4 family and senior communities in Virginia and the District.
- To launch at an additional 4 communities this winter in Washington, DC with sustained support from HSBC and the DCHFA.
- Time-tested, rigorous yet fun program that brings residents together with the community management team to build relationships and constructively address community issues.
- Once in place, it yields valuable results for residents, managers, and owners.



Mills Place

Health and Wellness Partnership

This year we expanded wellness programming beyond our previous offerings. Funded in part by **United Bank**, our new partner Home Core Fitness is now bringing its array of services to senior community members at Silver Creek, Laurel Lakes, and Ft. Washington. They include fitness classes and health and wellness workshops.

Eviction Prevention

Communities Together helps residents stay in their homes.

- At one family community, our coordinator helped reduce the rental debt this year by **\$87,000**.
- She worked with the community's manager to contact all the building's residents to inform them of community funds available to assist rental payments, financial workshops, and other resources in the area for those who have been struggling financially.
- Residents, managers, and owners continue to express gratitude to our coordinator for helping them address that rental debt.
- Financial success stories are spreading around the development.
- **Wells Fargo** recently authorized a grant to help us expand that program to family communities in Maryland.



Enterprise (Mercaditos) Program at Quebec Arms

Join Us!

To volunteer or partner with us, please visit us at www.CommTogether.org or write to admin@CommTogether.org

To make a secure donation, visit us at <https://CommTogether.org/donate>



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