

# Columbia Heights

COMMUNITY  
SERVICE  
OPPORTUNITIES



# 826 DC

826DC is dedicated to supporting students ages 6 through 18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. Our services are structured around our understanding that great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention and that strong writing skills are fundamental to future success.

With this in mind we provide drop-in tutoring, field trips, after-school workshops, in-schools tutoring, help for English language learners, and assistance with student publications. All of our programs are challenging and enjoyable, and ultimately strengthen each student's power to express ideas effectively, creatively, confidently, and in his or her individual voice.

3233 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
[www.802dc.org](http://www.802dc.org)

# BloomBars

BloomBars is working to inspire and unite communities through the arts. Our goal is to help foster personal and collective growth, and cultivate a legion of artists to be the catalyst for community transformation across the globe. BloomBars is a safe space for creative expression, honest conversation, personal health and wellness, and entertainment in a rich cultural environment. We redefine the perception of a bar, and provide a space for a multi-generational community to gather in an alcohol-free environment. BloomBars hosts a wide variety of arts classes for people of all ages and experience levels. Every day of the week, professional instructors lead community members in dance, theater, visual arts, music, poetry, and film.

3222 11th Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
[www.bloombars.com](http://www.bloombars.com)  
[info@bloombars.com](mailto:info@bloombars.com)

# Columbia Heights Day Initiative

The Columbia Heights Day Initiative is a local, independent, grassroots 501(c)(3). We were developed to kick-start the Columbia Heights Day Festival, now it's 5th year. In addition to the 2011 Annual Festival, we have been charged to develop more community events which highlight the residents, businesses and personality that make Columbia Heights so unique.

[www.columbiaheightsday.org](http://www.columbiaheightsday.org)  
[info@columbiaheightsday.org](mailto:info@columbiaheightsday.org)

# BrainFood

Brainfood is a non-profit youth development organization in Washington, DC. Using food as a tool, Brainfood builds life skills and promotes healthy living in a fun and safe environment. Target audience: DC high school age youth mostly from public schools and public charter schools. At Brainfood, we provide youth with a safe and structured environment where they are encouraged to take healthy risks, challenge themselves, learn new skills, and make healthy choices.

Brainfood currently has two programs that serve youth in the Washington DC community at our two program sites (Columbia Heights & Chinatown) Our Columbia Heights kitchen is located in St. Stephen's of the Incarnation, and currently hosts two classes of approximately 15-18 students on Monday-Thursday.

We are looking for energetic individuals who are passionate about working with youth and cooking.

(202) 615-6182  
<http://www.brain-food.org/>  
[carina@brain-food.org](mailto:carina@brain-food.org)

## Columbia Heights / Shaw Family Support Collaborative

The Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative (CH/SFSC) is one of seven Family support Collaborative in the District of Columbia. CH/SFSC original purpose was to provide incentives to develop broader alternatives to the foster care system including the prevention of unnecessary separation of children from their families. CH/SFSC goal is not only to help families avert crisis, but also to give families the tools they need to provide safe and nurturing homes for their children.

Today CH/SFSC has developed a Family Service division whose framework is very unique and nationally recognized. While other public child welfare systems are being reformed by decentralizing services delivery; the Collaborative designed theirs to change the way services are planned and delivered. Child welfare systems traditionally become involved with families at points of crisis; CH/SFSC builds networks of support that are accessible to families before crisis. Such networks include programs such as Gang/ Violence Intervention Programs, Community Capacity Building, and The Green Team. The programs provided by the Columbia Heights/Saw Family Support Collaborative are available to any member of the community. These programs are to create a much stronger community not just in Ward one but through the city.

The vision of CH/SFSC is to develop and sustain a seamless network of community partners throughout the District of Columbia that work to build strong families and supportive communities in which children, youth and adults can safely and productively reside and thrive.

1470 Irving Street, Northwest, Third Floor  
Washington, DC  
(202) 319-5799  
[www.chsfsc.org](http://www.chsfsc.org)  
[gvigil@chsfsc.org](mailto:gvigil@chsfsc.org)

# Community of Hope

For 30 years, Community of Hope has provided hope and stability to low-income and homeless adults and children in DC. Our holistic range of programs - from health care to housing with supportive services and programs promoting strong families - helps under served residents create stable lives for themselves and promising futures for their children. Our Girard Street Family Shelter provides apartment-style temporary shelter for 20 homeless families with children at a time. We served 38 families in 2009. Supportive services focus on helping families move quickly out of homelessness to stable housing, and include referrals to job training and mental health and substance abuse treatment. On-site life skills classes teach parenting, budgeting, and other useful skills. A family case management model assures that the needs of both parents and children are addressed.

(202) 407-7760  
[www.communityofhopedc.org](http://www.communityofhopedc.org)  
[volunteer@cohdc.org](mailto:volunteer@cohdc.org)

## North Columbia Heights Civic Association

The North Columbia Heights Civic Association is committed to fostering community involvement and improving quality of life for residents in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of Washington, D.C. North Columbia Heights stretches between 16th Street and Georgia Ave. (west-east) and Spring Road and Irving Street (north-south) in Northwest Washington, D.C. While we often focus on the areas in north Columbia Heights, our organization seeks to include all residents of the greater Columbia Heights area. The NCHCA has a focus on neighborhood clean-ups, improving green space, contributions to local schools, public safety, graffiti abatement, improving traffic patterns and introducing bike lanes, encouraging neighborhood community service, and forging relationships with existing and potential businesses. Our mission shifts according to the expressed interests of our membership. The NCHCA holds community forums at 7:00 P.M. on the first Wednesday of every alternating month in order to provide access to local business people, leaders, and politicians, as well as solicit feedback from our community. Additionally, we hold periodic neighborhood clean ups and regular planing meetings.

(202) 351-9818  
[www.northcolumbiaheights.org](http://www.northcolumbiaheights.org)  
[jeff.zeeman@northcolumbiaheights.org](mailto:jeff.zeeman@northcolumbiaheights.org)

## Greater DC Cares

With over 20 years of experience, Greater DC Cares is the leading and largest coordinator of volunteers in the region. GDCC comprehensively mobilizes volunteers and strengthens nonprofits to better impact communities and key issues in the Greater DC Region. Greater DC Cares' Neighboring Now program offers small program grants to neighborhood volunteers in the Greater Columbia Heights-Petworth area, making it easy to lead projects that impact your neighborhood's priorities.

(202) 777-4449  
[www.greaterdccaes.org](http://www.greaterdccaes.org)  
[mgilmore@greaterdccaes.org](mailto:mgilmore@greaterdccaes.org)

## North Columbia Heights Community Green

Opened in the Fall of 2010, the North Columbia Heights Community Green is the neighborhood's newest green space, bounded by the alleys east of the 3300 block of 11th Street, just below Park Road. Once a blighted vacant lot and entrenched dump site, the Green is now home to a butterfly garden, orchard, berry patch, herb garden, rain garden, greenhouse, stage, learning space, and 25 community garden plots. The Green is also used for native reforestation, green workforce development, environmental training, and community programs, classes, performances, and film screenings. Led by a broad community partnership with hundreds of volunteers, the miraculous transformation of the Green took years of advocacy, research, clean-ups, and other work to counter illegal dumping, remove abandoned vehicles, and eliminate tax liens held by absentee speculators. The Green is managed by a neighborhood collaborative and owned by Washington Parks & People, the award-winning alliance of community green partnerships that began 21 years ago with the dramatic reclamation of Meridian Hill/Malcolm X Park.

2437 15th Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
(202) GO-2-PARK  
[www.washingtonparks.net/north\\_columbia\\_heights\\_green](http://www.washingtonparks.net/north_columbia_heights_green)  
[info@washingtonparks.net](mailto:info@washingtonparks.net)

## Northwest Columbia Heights Civic Association

The Northwest Columbia Heights Community Association: A Block Captain on Every Block of Columbia Heights is Our Goal! Crime wouldn't stand a chance if every block in Columbia Heights were a "network" of active, involved neighbors. Would you like to become a Block Captain? Please send an e-mail to [nwchca@gmail.com](mailto:nwchca@gmail.com) for information about the next Neighborhood Watch Block Captains training session.

The Northwest Columbia Heights Community Association promotes a safer, stronger community through hosting monthly community meetings where neighbors can meet each other and get to know points-of-contact in our government who can help with quality-of-life issues. NWCHCA encourages greater cooperation between law enforcement and the community through Neighborhood Watch and the Community Criminal Justice Accountability Initiative, a program to reduce serious crime in Columbia Heights.

[www.nwchca.org](http://www.nwchca.org)  
[nwchca@gmail.com](mailto:nwchca@gmail.com)

## Salvation Army

The Salvation Army National Capital Area Command assists individuals and families by providing a diverse range of social services through Washington, DC and Alexandria, and Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Services include treatment for substance abuse, feeding the hungry, eviction prevention, utility and heating assistance, disaster relief, an outreach for the elderly, ill and disabled, clothing and shelter to the homeless and many opportunities for underprivileged children.

3335 Sherman Avenue NW  
Washington, DC  
(202) 829-0100  
[www.salarmydc.org](http://www.salarmydc.org)

# LIFT·DC

LIFT is a growing movement to combat poverty and expand opportunity for all people in the United States. Our mission is to alleviate poverty in D.C. and our country by engaging our nation's college students in this effort. LIFT operates a network of service centers, staffed by college student volunteers (known as Student Advocates).

LIFT Student Advocates work one-on-one with clients to help individuals and families secure employment or placement in job training programs, find safe and stable housing, apply for public benefits, and connect with resources such as healthcare, childcare, legal services, and food and clothing assistance.

If you need assistance with searching for a job, creating a resume, getting into GED or job training program, searching for housing, applying for public benefits, obtaining health care, finding child care, acquiring legal services, finding clothing, finding food resources, learning computer skills, obtaining your credit report then come to LIFT-DC!

LIFT has no eligibility requirements and provides all service free of charge. Please contact one of our offices to get started. For Spanish-speaking clients, please call our Columbia Heights office.

1420 Columbia Road, NW  
Washington, DC  
(202) 332-4200 x 1116  
[www.liftcommunities.org/washington-dc](http://www.liftcommunities.org/washington-dc)  
[washingtondc@liftcommunities.org](mailto:washingtondc@liftcommunities.org)

## The Columbia Heights Community Marketplace

The Columbia Heights Community Marketplace, also known as the Columbia Heights Festivus, builds and strengthens the community and economy through local, sustainably produced food, entertainment, the arts and community service. The fruit, vegetables, flowers, baked goods, meat, cheese, yogurt, eggs and gelato available at the Marketplace are grown, raised or produced within 150 miles of Washington, DC. Likewise, artists and entertainers right here in the nation's capital create the fine art, crafts and entertainment that people find every Saturday on the plaza. The farmers market is just one component that offers opportunities for small farmers, artisans, crafts people, entertainers, cooks and bakers from the Chesapeake Bay region the chance to market their products in Columbia Heights.

Participants in the Marketplace engage youth in learning about sustainable, local agriculture and local economies. This includes youth interning with the nearby farms, bakeries and processors supplying the Marketplace. Young people benefit by gaining entrepreneurial and small business skills and training by working with vendors at the market and the local businesses and organizations associated with it. The sustainable farming and gardening, marketing, business planning and job skills offered serve youth in the years ahead.

This year's Marketplace will be bigger and better than our inaugural season in 2010. This year's CH Festivus festivities will happen every Saturday on the Columbia Heights civic plaza (intersection of 14th Street and Park Road, NW) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., beginning on May 7 and concluding on December 17, 2011.

[www.chfestivus.org](http://www.chfestivus.org)

# The Family Place D.C.

For more than 30 years, the Family Place has helped promote stability and well-being for low income families in Washington DC by offering education, critical resources, and social support. Most of our clients are mothers with young children under the age of five. As such, all classes and services are offered at no cost to families.

The Family Place is a welcoming, multi-cultural environment with three programs (Family Literacy, Family Wellness, and Family Stability) that help meet emergency needs; provide education and training; and offer access to information and other social services. Our class offerings range from Spanish Literacy and English as a Second Language to Pre-Natal Health and Parenting. We are one of the only organizations in DC to host a Spanish-language domestic violence support group. Within the comforts of the Mount Pleasant row house we have owned since 1986, participants not only find access to important programs, but also form mutually supportive friendships. And as we assist families in solving problems, we help them to build on their own strengths so that they can succeed independently.

(202) 265-0149  
[www.thefamilyplacedc.org](http://www.thefamilyplacedc.org)  
[mwolf@thefamilyplacedc.org](mailto:mwolf@thefamilyplacedc.org)

# Thrive DC

Over 6,000 people in Washington, DC face the night without knowing where they will sleep or what they will eat. Thrive DC makes sure that no one has to face homelessness alone or on an empty stomach. Each day, Thrive DC provides over 200 meals and supportive services to help homeless men and women end their homelessness and change their lives. To learn more visit us online at [www.ThriveDC.org](http://www.ThriveDC.org).  
Mission: Thrive DC works to prevent and end homelessness by providing vulnerable individuals with a comprehensive range of services to help stabilize their lives.

Vision: Thrive DC envisions a city that unites to ensure that all vulnerable individuals have the necessary support and resources to lead fulfilling lives free of homelessness.

1525 Newton Street NW  
Washington, DC  
(202) 503-1528  
[www.thrivedc.org](http://www.thrivedc.org)

# Unity Health Care

Unity Health Care provides people in Washington, DC with quality health care regardless of ability to pay. For those who can pay, a sliding scale based on family size and income is used to determine the appropriate amount. Unity Health Care accepts Medicaid, Medicare, Managed Care Organizations, DC Healthcare Alliance (DC Chartered Health Care Alliance and Unison Alliance), and other private insurance plans.

3020 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
(202) 745-4300  
[www.unityhealthcare.org](http://www.unityhealthcare.org)



NORTH COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
WWW.NORTHCOLUMBIAHEIGHTS.ORG

# Columbia Heights Great Day of Service

The Columbia Heights Great Day of Service was conceived by the NCHCA as a time when local community organizations can collaborate to encourage engagement with neighborhood community service opportunities. Working together, we can grow our community!

Use this guide to discover the variety of opportunities to server your community.

Special Thanks To:

Council Member Jim Graham

