



GRASSROOTS  
CRISIS INTERVENTION  
CENTER, INCORPORATED  
6700 Freetown Road  
Columbia, Maryland 21044

**Council Appointment Hearing BPSS**

March 20, 2017

Dear Esteemed Council Members:

Business 410-531-6006  
24 Hours 410-531-6677  
Fax 410-531-3487

My name is Ayesha Bajwa Holmes, I am a resident of Ellicott City. My home is located at 4915 Autumn Crest Way, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

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

As the new Executive Director of Grassroots Crisis Intervention Services, I am honored to be considered to serve on the Board to Support Self Sufficiency.

Crisis Services  
Emergency Shelter  
Community Outreach

Grassroots serves the community in four distinct ways:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sonya Bajwa
- Libby Boswell
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- Barry Frieman
- Major Ellsworth Jones III
- Thomas King
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- Nicholas Langhauser
- Mary Lasky
- Dottie C. Paxton
- Tim Samuel
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- Joe Stellone
- Alice Wade
- Sheryll Ziporkin

- 1) **24-Hour Crisis Hotline**, which includes crisis intervention via telephone, and through the Mobile Crisis Team. Here we serve as the single point of entry for assessment for homeless services and supports, mental health crisis, and suicide prevention and intervention.
- 2) **The Day Resource Center**, currently located on Rt. 1, but slated to move in early summer to a new site at the Leona Dorsey Center or Guilford Road. Here we serve those who are chronically homeless and often in most distress for immediate assistance.
- 3) **The 51-Bed Shelter at our Freetown Road** location, The Shelter on Freetown Road houses 18 single men, 6 single women, and 10 families. and
- 4) **The Cold Weather Shelter**, a partnership among many congregations and Grassroots with County Support, for moving costs. The Cold Weather Shelter is an integral part of our work to ensure that no person is left out in the cold. The level of community and volunteer support that is provided by each congregation is a true gift to the County and our residents. Additionally in winter, Grassroots serves as the access point for the county's **Emergency Cold Weather** program which ensures anyone in the county needing shelter is able to find cover.

EMERITUS

- Ruth Conway
- Eugene J. Hinman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Andrea S. Ingram, LCSW-C

When one considers self-sufficiency, perhaps the most important part of that is permanent housing. As we go into uncharted territory related to the ACA and HUD, I am grateful to be serving as part of the Board that is tasked with serving individuals with some of the greatest and most complex needs in the county. Grassroots works with individuals who need daily support, most often those who are without housing. I look forward to partnering with individuals, other non-profits and Howard County Government to as a member of the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency.

Sincerely,



United Way  
of Central Maryland

Ayesha Bajwa Holmes, Executive Director  
Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center