Dear Friends,

In 2015, Home Care Partners’ Board of Directors adopted a Vision Statement, reflecting our highest aspirations:

*A community where vulnerable older and disabled adults have the home care assistance they need to live safely in their homes with dignity.*

This vision reflects an ideal world, but “in dreams begin responsibilities.” In this report we share with you the steps we took to reach for that dream in 2015 and are continuing as we move on through 2016.

Since we continue to serve clients year after year, many of our programs are well-established. However, we are constantly refining how we provide services, by listening to complaints and compliments, educating our staff as new methods and best practices emerge, and responding to a changing regulatory and financial environment. This year we were excited to work on developing a new program, starting with a great idea, then a pilot project, and now transforming it into a full-blown program.

We are honored to work with our clients, our many partners and funders. Our sincere thanks to all of you for your continuing support.

*Sincerely,*

Marla Lahat,  
Executive Director

Barbara Strother,  
Chair, Board of Directors
Home Care Partners is a private, non-profit agency serving the Washington, DC metropolitan area. We enable vulnerable people to remain in their own homes in comfort, safety, and dignity. We do this by:

- Providing comprehensive home care services
- Training those interested in meaningful careers in the home care field
- Supporting family caregivers

We are committed to excellence; we embrace diversity; and we serve those in need with priority given to those unable to pay the full cost of care.
2015 Milestones

- Provided 222,703 units of service to over 1,000 clients.
- Piloted a project providing occupational therapy (OT) assessments and services to seniors at risk of falls.
- At year’s end, received funds to expand the OT pilot project to new Safe at Home program providing assessments and home modifications to reduce fall risks and barriers to mobility. Introduced courses in mental health first aid and Reiki for caregivers.
- Decided to focus our Training Institute efforts on continuing education for our staff and the community and discontinue the entry-level home care aide training until the testing and certification process can be revised.
A Brief History

Established in 1957, Home Care Partners today has become the “go-to” partner in the DC metropolitan area for government agencies serving low and moderate income seniors and their families and adults with disabilities for intermittent home care aide services and supports. We partner with municipal agencies in DC, Arlington, Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties, the City of Gaithersburg, Community Ministries of Rockville, and the Veterans Administration. We also actively advocate for the interests of seniors and direct care workers through local and national advocacy groups.
Carrying Out Our Vision

How are we striving to accomplish our vision? In 2015, we took concrete steps through our established programs and initiated new activities to expand our services. At the heart of our services, we provided home care aides to over 1,000 primarily low-income seniors and adults with disabilities in the DC metropolitan area. Many of those clients have relied on the help provided by our home care aides for several years, but we are continuously adding new clients due to turnover, as funding permits. It is a testament to the strength of our services that many are able to remain at home through their final days. Thanks in large part to a substantial increase in funding from the DC Office on Aging in 2015, our services units increased by 16,000+ hours more than in previous years. We are the sole providers of this type of subsidized service in DC, Prince George’s and Arlington Counties and one of a handful of partners with Montgomery County, Community Ministries of Rockville and the regional Veterans Administration. In partnership with the City of Gaithersburg, we provide Light Care to clients who need a very modest amount of home care help through a weekly aide visit. All clients and aides work through the supervision of a social work or nurse case manager who assesses client needs and makes sure those needs are met.

Case managers work directly with family members in
our family caregiver and DC Caregivers’ Institute program. We served close to 200 family caregivers in 2015. The care managers offer practical advice, such as which supplies or equipment families can purchase to make caregiving tasks easier, where they can find them and other resources that are available to them. The hidden burdens of caregiving are the emotional stresses that family caregivers often carry, leading to high rates of depression and adverse effects on the health of the caregiver. Our programs respond to those needs through counseling---just a phone call away---and a caregiver support group. In DC we are fortunate to be able to provide modest caregiver respite stipends to cover costs of necessary supplies and respite services.

**Home Care Partners’ Training Institute provides caregiver education training for direct care workers and for caregivers in the community.** The Training Institute continues to be the backbone of our aides’ on-going skills training and review. We also offered community courses in mental health first aid this year. In 2015, we conducted 5 classes of entry-level training for students hoping to get their home health aide certification. Unfortunately, recent test results at our school and most others have been unsatisfactory, due, we believe, to problems with the exam and testing process. While we have advocated strongly for changes and will continue to do so, we reluctantly concluded that we could not continue to offer the entry course in the meantime.

In 2015 we partnered with the DC Office on Aging in a pilot project to reduce seniors’ fall risks. The success of the pilot led to a new, major program, Safe at Home, at the end of the year. An occupational therapist conducts an assessment and recommends changes to reduce clients’ fall risks and barriers to mobility. The new program covers the costs of approved equipment, repairs and home modifications.
Revenue: $6,571,804, excluding unrealized loss on investments
Expenses: $6,627,454
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Acknowledgements

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### Government and Community Funders
- Arlington Department of Human Services
- Community Ministries of Rockville
- DC Office on Aging
- DC Department of Human Services
- City of Gaithersburg/Mobile Medical Care
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
- Prince George’s County Department of Family Services
- Veterans Administration

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