Yachad’s Sukkot in Spring
Healthy Home Repair Program

Yachad’s Mission Statement:

Yachad’s mission is to bring communities together by preserving affordable homes and revitalizing neighborhoods throughout the District of Columbia and the greater metropolitan area. Yachad means “together” in Hebrew, and that is how we do our work through partnerships with homeowners, houses of worship, nonprofits, and other community stakeholders. We mobilize skilled and unskilled volunteers, invest financial resources, and, through our work together, transform people and properties. Our mission is rooted in the Jewish commitment to seek justice by engaging in acts of loving kindness. We welcome people of all faiths to share in our work to keep our communities inclusive and vital.

About Sukkot in Spring:

Sukkot in Spring is Yachad’s signature program. Since 1992 hundreds of single-family homes, group houses and community centers have been repaired. Yachad recruits area synagogues and other Jewish groups to tackle serious repairs for lower-income residents in our greater community.

When you sponsor a home repair project, this is the problem that you’re helping to solve:

Much attention is given to people without homes at all. Lurking just below this crisis, is the serious problem of dangerous and substandard housing in many of our city’s neighborhoods. This problem is underreported because there is no new unit of housing to point to or a family moving out of a homeless shelter. The problem is far more widespread with huge consequences on our city’s most economically fragile lower income homeowners. These families are in a silent crisis.

This is housing that is often older and owned by families for multiple generations. It is grandparents living with children, grandchildren and others. This is housing with leaking roofs, dangerous electrical issues, toilets and sinks that don’t work and appliances that are broken. Deferred repairs or gentrification will destroy this last bit of affordable housing. Unfortunately, there are precious little resources and attention given to working with these families to insure functional homes.

Substandard housing is a health hazard particularly for families with asthma. Yachad is proud to be part of a city-wide collaborative to reduce childhood asthma, which disproportionately affects urban youth, especially African Americans. By addressing housing conditions that trigger children’s allergies and asthma—necessitating expensive medical treatment, missed school and work—we are truly helping our neighbors thrive and live healthier lives, while remaining in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods.

When you partner with Yachad you are part of the solution. Your support ensures that another family has a stable, healthy, comfortable and special place to call home.
Yachad’s Healthy Housing Focus

Be part of a city-wide effort to reduce childhood asthma.

Yachad is deepening its healthy housing work, specifically addressing asthma and other health-related problems triggered by substandard housing conditions. Partnering with Yachad to repair serious housing issues means we can reduce health problems and even save lives.

Did you know?

- In Washington, D.C., more than 1 in 10 children currently have asthma, which is well above the national average.

- Children living in Wards 7 and 8 are 20 times more likely to go to emergency rooms for their asthma than children living in affluent Northwest neighborhoods.

- For African American children, the rate of death from asthma is 10 times higher than that of their white peers.

- Eliminating home-based triggers can reduce asthma flare-ups by 44%.

Yachad is partnering with Children’s National’s IMPACT DC asthma clinic and Lydia’s House to improve housing conditions that contribute to significant health issues for local residents. With your support, we are providing housing remediation services to these families.

Addressing asthma triggers at home, such as old carpets and leaky roofs, reduces asthma attacks, plus prevents the need for costly medical treatment or missed school or work (asthma is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism). The impact is BIG.

“...we have felt a big difference with our breathing. We thank you and everyone for this gift and your hard work.” --The Giron Family

Yachad is also part of an innovative pilot project with Children’s National using virtual home visits to provide asthma care and combat home triggers--an innovative approach to complete health care.

Thank you for partnering with us and helping families breathe easier.

Links to learn more:

Yachad’s partnership with Children’s National Medical Center
Doctors Blame D.C.’s High Asthma Rates in Part on Poor Housing