

# Trinity Helping Micah Build the Jeremiah Community

More than twenty years ago in Fredericksburg there was a sense of helplessness about how to support our neighbors living on the street. But then folks from nine downtown churches started conversations about how we could work together. Those conversations resulted in a collaboration of churches called Micah Ecumenical Ministries. Many of you will remember that Micah started in the basement of Trinity's Jamison Hall with food, clothes, tents, showers, and someone to listen.

In twenty years, we have learned that it takes more than providing an apartment or house to overcome homelessness. It takes a community.

So Micah has developed a vision of a life-sharing community to be known as the Jeremiah Community where neighbors can live affordably, have purpose, and develop relationships. Micah has acquired land near Bragg Hill which has been rezoned. Phase 1 of the community includes 50 small single unit and duplex style homes, a community center, garden and green space, support services, and neighborhood watch. Residents will be required to pay rent, obey civil laws, and follow the rules of the community similar to a homeowner's association.

Last year while I was working on the Micah tax return, Meghann Cotter, the Executive Servant Leader, asked if I had time to chat about Jeremiah Community. The rezoning had been approved and I thought she was going to ask if Trinity, as a founding member, could raise several hundred thousand dollars to support the Jeremiah Community. When she said the founding churches were going to be asked to raise the cost of a house, about \$60,000, I said, "Oh, yeh, we can do that!" and I got started.

As frequently happens with capital campaigns, there is a beginning "silent period" where some donors are asked to make early commitments. We have some significant commitments, so we're on our way. Our Vestry approved a special offering to support the Jeremiah Community because we know that

Trinitarians care about Micah and this project. Maybe we can raise way more than the \$60,000 cost of a house. We can use your \$10 or your \$10,000.

We also know that Trinitarians are being asked to support Blessings in a Backpack at the same time we have a special offering for Jeremiah, but there is currently an opportunity for Micah to receive a generous matching gift up to \$100,000. Timing is important.

You may write a check payable to Trinity Church, write Jeremiah in the memo space and put it in the offering plate or mail it to 825 College Avenue Fredericksburg, VA 22401 **OR** you may go to Trinity's website, click on donate, and pick Jeremiah in the drop-down menu.

There is handout that includes a card with information about the Jeremiah Community and information about giving. I'm excited for Trinity and Micah. We'll put up a thermometer in the narthex to track giving over the next few weeks.

I also want to recognize Cory Gudowicz as Trinity's representative to the Micah board. He also organizes breakfast at Trinity when the cold weather shelter operates. Thank you, Cory.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Jeremiah Community. For more information, contact Harry Dickinson at [hdcpa1@verizon.net](mailto:hdcpa1@verizon.net) or 540-785-6023.

Harry Dickinson  
Register

**Trinity Helping Micah  
Build the Jeremiah Community**

Yes, I/we want to help build a home for our neighbors!

Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I am/We are enclosing a check payable to Trinity Episcopal Church 825 College Avenue  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

\_\_\_\_ I/we made a donation on-line at Trinity's website by clicking on Donate and choosing  
Jeremiah in the drop-down menu

Donor name as it is to be published in a list of donors \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please do not publicize my/our name

See brochure below.

# JEREMIAH COMMUNITY



## A HOME FOR OUR NEIGHBORS



### The Beginning

What began 20 years ago as an effort of the downtown churches to help people survive on the street has become

a holistic initiative with supports in every aspect of people's lives: a unique collaboration of churches called **Micah Ministries**. We have learned, however, that giving someone a set of keys and a case manager is only a beginning. To truly overcome homelessness, a person needs more than a house. They need a home: a community centered on belonging, connectedness, shared burdens, and shared relationships.

### Why Community?

People don't become homeless when they run out of **money**. People become homeless when they run out of **relationships**.

### Our vision

Jeremiah Community is a life-sharing community, where neighbors overcoming homelessness can **live affordably**, have **purpose**, and grow meaningful **relationships**.



#### HOUSING

Permanent units, right-sized (~450 sq ft) with a front porch, built for the unique needs of individuals overcoming homelessness.



#### PURPOSE

Opportunities for neighbors to identify their gifts, share them with their community, and move those gifts into an economy, where they can earn a dignified income.



#### RELATIONSHIP

Support from a residential care team (i.e. case managers, volunteers, churches and professional service providers, etc).

Learn more at:

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

## Community Essentials

### Phase 1

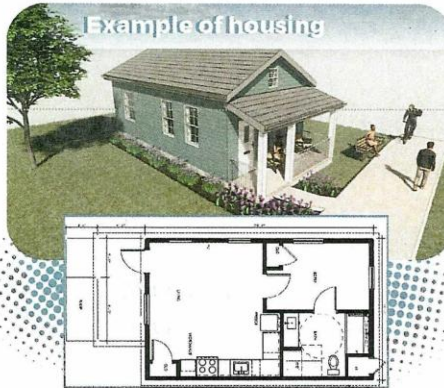
- 50 small single-unit & duplex-style homes
- Community Center
- Garden/green space
- Support services
- Neighborhood watch

### Future Phases

- Additional 59 homes
- Health clinic
- Memorial garden
- Workshops for income development
- Community market

In Jeremiah Community, everyone will be required to pay rent, obey civil law and follow the rules of the community, similar to an HOA.

### Example of housing



### Jeremiah Community is within our reach!



Micah Ministries has acquired land in the Bragg Hill area, and we have secured appropriate zoning to build this vision.

### How you can help

Building a neighborhood that is uniquely focused on caring for the region's most vulnerable neighbors requires compassionate giving from all parts of the community.

Please consider a **one-time gift**, or maximize your impact with a **multi-year commitment**.

Build **houses** and live in them; plant **gardens** and eat their produce...

But seek the **welfare** of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the **Lord** on its behalf, for in its **welfare** you will find your **welfare**.

-Jeremiah 29:5-9



Learn more at:  
[www.JeremiahCommunity.org](http://www.JeremiahCommunity.org)