

**Press Release**

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**DESPITE BLISTERING HEAT, LOCAL TEENS MAKE NE COOP ACCESSIBLE FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS**

On Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., Washington, DC housing and community development organization Yachad celebrated the work of its teenage volunteers, who helped make a Northeast Housing Coop more accessible to people with disabilities. Beginning and finishing work during the sweltering heat wave that hit our area this month, a group of local teens built a professionally-designed accessibility ramp for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Coop on 5744 2<sup>nd</sup> St., NE, Washington, DC.

Yachad's "Ramp it Up!" program paired these high school students with professional carpenters. The ramp they finished makes four to six coop units accessible in the previously inaccessible fifty-two unit housing complex. By mobilizing skilled and unskilled volunteers and empowering homeowners with skills and education, Yachad works to repair the homes and communities of low-income homeowners to ensure that Washington, DC can remain a diverse city.

Now that the ramp is completed, Yachad will continue working with volunteers to make key renovations to the bathrooms, kitchens, and doorways of several of the ground floor apartment units.

The project has been made possible in part through funding from the National Fair Housing Alliance's (NFHA) Accessibility Fund. NFHA and Yachad will use the fund, made possible through the settlement of a Fair Housing design and construction lawsuit filed against large national developer the A.G. Spanos Companies, to increase the availability of accessible housing for homeowners and renters in the District of Columbia over the next three years. NFHA is a consortium of more than 220 private, non-profit fair housing organizations, state and local civil rights agencies, and individuals, dedicated to providing equal access to apartments, houses, mortgages loans, and insurance policies for all residents of the nation.

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