

YOUR IMPACT in the

# IONA COMMUNITY

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## Standing Together in 2026

Dear Friends,

Recently, I shared a meal with Iona's Dementia Solidarity Group, five remarkable individuals navigating life after their dementia diagnosis. We talked about our favorite desserts, the monuments at the National Mall, and the ups and downs of the week. When one person looked down at her hands and quietly said, "It's been a tough week," we didn't rush to fill the silence. We simply sat together. In that moment, the group reminded me that compassion and caring for one another need not be loud. What matters most can be as simple as showing up and just listening.

That spirit of caring is at the heart of everything we do at Iona. In our city, 1 in 6 older adults are living with dementia, 1 in 3 are experiencing hunger, and too many are aging in isolation. Yet every day, I see neighbors choosing compassion over isolation and action over indifference.

I am privileged to share that this past year, we've served more than 100,000 meals, offered 5,000+ classes and activities to reduce loneliness, and hosted 80 memory clinics in low-income senior housing communities. None of this would be possible without your partnership. Because behind every number is a person, and a reminder that aging well should not be a privilege, but a shared promise.



*The Asian and Pacific Islander Senior Center welcomed the Lunar New Year with a festive community celebration filled with cultural performances and traditions.*

In recent months, I've met with hundreds of participants, volunteers, and supporters. I've heard real concern about the future, and I've also felt something stronger: hope. A willingness to stand together. A readiness to build a city where everyone can age with dignity.

Thank you for being part of this community. Your generosity makes it possible for Iona to create spaces where people are seen, supported, and reminded they are not alone.

With gratitude,



Joon Bang

*Joon Bang*

CEO  
Iona Senior Services

## Welcoming New Leaders to Iona's Board

Iona Senior Services is excited to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors. Their leadership and experience will help advance our mission to meet vulnerable older adults where they are and ensure their basic needs are met.



**Donna Callejon**

Donna is an accomplished executive, advisor, and board leader with deep expertise at the intersection of business and social impact. After more than a decade at Fannie Mae, she joined the early team at GlobalGiving, helping grow it into a \$100M+ social enterprise. She now serves as a strategic advisor and executive coach. Donna lives in Montgomery County, Maryland with her partner and their two pups.



**Renée Hendley**

Renée brings 30 years of nonprofit leadership and international development experience. She has held senior roles with the National Opinion Research Center, the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, and the Urban Institute, managing complex, globally funded initiatives to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations. A volunteer with Iona's Wellness & Arts program, Renée combines her expertise in research, evaluation, and community engagement with a commitment to dignity, inclusion, and holistic wellbeing.

To read their full bios and learn about all Iona's Board members, please visit [www.iona.org](http://www.iona.org).

## Celebrating Culture and Community

In February, Iona proudly celebrated culture and community with special gatherings for Black History Month and Lunar New Year. Our Community Programs Team kicked things off with a joyful "Black History Month: Iona Family Reunion," a fun afternoon of music, games, delicious food, and laughter. Participants honored the rich heritage and contributions of African Americans in a celebration rooted in pride, connection, and community.

At our Asian and Pacific Islander Senior Center, older adults rang in the Lunar New Year with a vibrant celebration filled with tradition, cultural performances, and time-honored customs, welcoming the new year together with joy and hope. These moments reflect Iona's commitment to creating spaces where older adults feel seen, valued, and connected.



# Let Your Legacy Change Lives



Nurse Belinda stands outside of the Daniel Stevenel nursing station at Iona's Washington Home Center.

The nursing suite at Iona's Washington Home Center in Congress Heights was recently named in honor of Daniel Stevenel, whose extraordinary estate gift ensures that older adults in Washington, DC, especially in Wards 7 and 8, continue to receive compassionate, high-quality care.

"The nursing station is a safe space with an open-door policy where participants and staff can come talk about anything that's on their minds," says Nurse Belinda. "Because I see participants every day, I'm able to notice changes that might otherwise go unnoticed and share updates with caregivers. That kind of daily connection makes Iona's medical model truly lifesaving and an important part of how we support the whole person," she says.

By naming Iona as the primary beneficiary of his estate, Daniel made it possible for Iona to continue serving older adults in some of the area's most under-resourced communities. The Daniel Stevenel Nursing Station stands as a lasting tribute to his generosity.

You can create an enduring impact by joining Iona's Legacy Circle. In addition to gifts through a will, designating Iona Senior Services as a beneficiary of all or a portion of a life insurance policy, retirement account or donor advised fund is something you can do today. For questions or to discuss your legacy gift, please contact Stephanie Hubbard at (202) 895-9441 or shubbard@iona.org.

## Reserve Your Seat Today

# Iona's Annual Heart of Caring Luncheon

You're invited to Heart of Caring, Iona's annual fundraising luncheon. This inspiring gathering features a seated lunch, an engaging program, a dynamic keynote speaker, and opportunities to connect with others who care about the well-being of older adults and family caregivers.

Proceeds from the event support Iona's vital programs and services that help meet the urgent needs of those we serve. Purchase a ticket and join us in making a meaningful difference.

Visit [www.iona.org/hoc26](http://www.iona.org/hoc26) for tickets and additional details.



Scan to  
purchase  
your ticket!

**Keynote Speaker:**  
Allison Gilbert



*Allison Gilbert is an Emmy Award-winning journalist, bestselling author, and a leading voice on human connection and social health.*





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Supported by the D.C. Department of Aging and Community Living.



## Join Iona's Webinars

Iona Senior Services regularly hosts free webinars designed to help older adults and caregivers navigate the aging journey with greater confidence and peace of mind. Recent sessions including "Dementia 101" and "Your Aging Toolkit: Resources to Live Well Longer," have explored topics like understanding memory changes, planning for care needs, and accessing helpful resources.

Through Iona's Aging and Caregiving Support services, our licensed social workers and nurse care manager provide guidance, personalized care planning, and trusted support. To learn more, please visit [www.iona.org](http://www.iona.org).

Scan the QR code below to join our mailing list and get notified about upcoming webinars to gain practical tools, helpful information, and compassionate guidance for you and your loved ones.



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