

IT'S ALL ABOUT SELF



April - May 2025

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As spring blossoms around us, I'm reminded that this season is nature's way of showing us what new beginnings can look like - and here at SELF Inc., we are embracing this moment of renewal with purpose and pride. From launching transformative programs to honoring the nurturing spirit of our community, we are stepping boldly into this new chapter.

This spring marks the debut of two vital initiatives: the *Youth Betterment and Empowerment Realized (Y.B.E.R.)* program and *UPLIFT*. YBER provides permanent supportive housing to youth aged 18 - 24 who face compounded challenges such as domestic violence or mental health concerns. UPLIFT, funded through Home-ARP, supports adults 18 and over with tenant-based rental assistance and pathways to career growth through job certification opportunities. These programs reflect our belief that everyone deserves the chance to build a stable, empowered life.

In honor of Mother's Day, I want to extend heartfelt wishes to all the incredible mothers and mother figures - especially those at Susquehanna House, our staff, and supporters - who embody strength and selfless love. This time of year is particularly meaningful to me, as *Miss Barbara's House* was founded in honor of my own mother, a woman who never turned away someone in need and always gave what she had to lift others up. Her legacy lives on in every young person we serve, every door we open, and every hope we help rekindle.

Let this season remind us: we are not only building housing - we are planting futures.

In Service,

Dr. Shirlana Dash





SPOTLIGHT: SUSQUEHANNA HOUSE

Nacera Wynn (*pictured on the left*) recently discovered that she has a sister, a revelation that brought both surprise and a renewed sense of connection. Since learning about her sibling, Nacera's life has taken a positive turn- She has secured employment and, most recently, obtained housing.

Now, with just a housing inspection standing between her and the next chapter of her life, she is preparing to leave Susquehanna House behind. The discovery of family has not only offered emotional support but also seemed to mark the beginning of a new, more stable phase in her journey.

NEW Y.B.E.R. SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM **LAUNCHES**

On March 30, SELF, Inc. officially launched the Y.B.E.R. Supportive Housing Program, a long-term initiative focused on helping individuals and families with a history of chronic homelessness find stable, permanent housing. The program is designed to reduce the time people spend unsheltered, to move participants into housing within 45 days or less.

SELF, Inc. is committed to ensuring that at least 80% of households who complete the Supportive Housing program transition into permanent housing within the community, whether or not they continue receiving a housing subsidy.

Y.B.E.R. is led by Program Director Sharisse Johnson, with Brian Ducksworth and Zakari Idris serving as Housing Navigators. The program operates under the leadership of SELF's Chief Housing Director, Gerald McCormac, who provides oversight and strategic direction.

LEADERS VISIT IFE WELLNESS **CENTER**



SELF Inc. was honored to welcome Pennsylvania State Representatives Gina Curry and Darisha Parker to the IFE Wellness Center for a meaningful visit centered on community wellness and support for vulnerable populations. We were also pleased to receive a brief but impactful visit from State Representative and Democratic National Committee Vice Chair Malcolm Kenyatta, whose continued advocacy for equity and opportunity inspires our work.

The presence of these dedicated public servants underscores the importance of investing in holistic care and housing solutions for all Philadelphians. We are grateful for their time, insight, and commitment to the communities we serve.



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SELF IN THE CITY *Gala* 2025

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**RICKEY
DUNCAN**
CEO of
NOMO Foundation

HEART OF THE CITY AWARD



**SHERYL LEE
RALPH**
Award-Winning Actress,
Singer, and Advocate

SATURDAY

NOV
15

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YOUTH HORIZON AWARD

Nominations for the Horizon
Youth Award are being accepted until
Friday, August 29th at info@selfincorp.org