



IT'S ALL ABOUT

# SELF

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2025



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I am deeply humbled and honored to serve as the CEO of this remarkable organization, where our mission is not just about providing housing resources but offering hope, compassion, and dignity to our unhoused neighbors throughout Philadelphia.

Every day, we are inspired by the resilience and strength of the people we serve. It's not always easy, but it is always worth it! Every hot meal, every safe space, and every act of kindness builds our vision of a community where everyone is seen, valued, and cared for.

As we continue our work, I want to remind you of the power of the community! Your support, whether through your time, donations, or advocacy, empowers us to offer more than just a place to sleep. Together, we provide opportunity, respect, and a future. The challenges we face are substantial, but so are the solutions we can create together! Together we truly make a difference and impact the lives of thousands.

This is a call to action, not just to care for those in need, but to stand with them, listen to their stories, and honor their humanity. As we look toward the future, we are filled with hope and determination that our collective efforts can make lasting changes in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for being a part of this journey.

In Service,

**Dr. Shirlana Dash**



# SPOTLIGHT ON OUTLEY HOUSE

Community, Celebration, and Success



At SELF, Inc., we believe that shelter is more than just a place to stay—it's a foundation for stability, growth, and opportunity. Outley House, one of our largest shelters, embodies this mission by providing support, resources, and a sense of community to its residents. Over the past few months, we've witnessed incredible moments of generosity, celebration, and personal achievements.

## WINTERFEST CELEBRATION: **Spreading Holiday Joy**

In December, The People's Baptist Church, one of our valued Program Partners, hosted a Winterfest Christmas Celebration for the residents of Outley House. Volunteers prepared, cooked, and served meals, ensuring that everyone enjoyed a warm holiday meal in a festive atmosphere. The celebration also included party bags, Christmas gifts, and a grand prize raffle, making the day extra special for those we serve. Their generosity brought smiles and a renewed sense of hope to many during the holiday season.



# SUPER BOWL WATCH PARTY Game Day Fun

This past Sunday, residents at Outley House came together for an unofficial Super Bowl Watch Party, turning the shelter into a space of laughter, camaraderie, and team spirit. Thanks to the support of our staff and volunteers, participants enjoyed pizza, refreshments, chips, pretzels, and more, bringing a true game-day experience to Outley House. Events like these create moments of connection and joy, reminding us all of the power of community.



## SUCCESS STORIES: **Building a Brighter Future**

At Outley House, we celebrate not just temporary relief, but long-term transformation. Two of our residents, Mr. Benjamin Pagent and Mr. Antoine Davis, are shining examples of resilience and determination

**Mr. Benjamin Pagent** took full advantage of the resources available to him at Outley House. Since arriving, he has enrolled in and regularly attends Community College, dedicating himself to his education. Beyond academics, he is also deeply involved in youth sports, serving as a little league coach and recently being selected to manage a coaching staff at a local school.



**Mr. Antoine Davis** embraced an opportunity presented by one of our Program Partners in the Health Billing and Coding industry. He successfully completed a paid training and placement program, passed his certification test, and is now employed with a starting wage of \$23 per hour. After his 90-day probationary period, he will have the option to transfer to his department of choice, further advancing his career.



Their achievements are a testament to the importance of access, opportunity, and a supportive environment—the very things Outley House strives to provide every day.

## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS POSSIBLE

Stories like these wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our donors, program partners, and supporters. Thank you for believing in the mission of SELF, Inc. and for helping us create brighter futures for the individuals we serve.

If you'd like to get involved  
or support our programs,  
contact us at:

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

215-496-9610

[info@selfincorp.org](mailto:info@selfincorp.org)



YOU CAN ALSO MAIL A CHECK TO

**SELF INC.**

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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

**Together, we are  
building pathways to  
stability, dignity, and  
success.**

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT

## Honoring Leaders in Housing & Advocacy

These two trailblazers have played instrumental roles in shaping Philadelphia's housing policies and support systems, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, advocacy, and action for those most in need



### **Hon. Janie Blackwell** A CHAMPION FOR THE UNHOUSED

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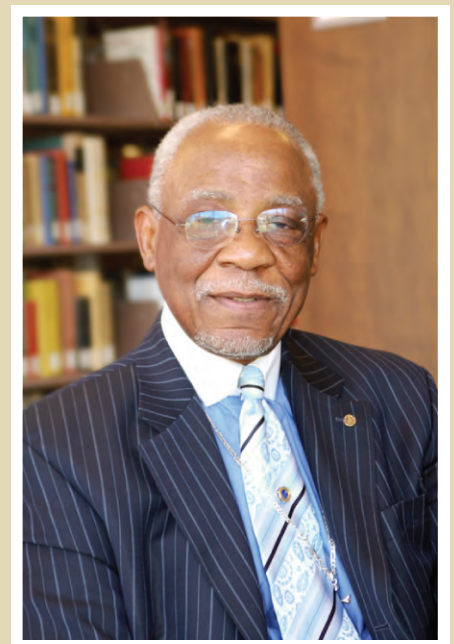
Former Philadelphia City Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell dedicated her career to advocating for the city's most vulnerable populations, particularly individuals experiencing homelessness. Representing the 3rd District for over 25 years, she played a pivotal role in securing affordable housing initiatives, emergency shelter programs, and social services for those in need. As Chair of City Council's Housing Committee, she was a leading voice in shaping

Philadelphia's homeless policies, ensuring funding for transitional housing programs and advocating for inclusive housing policies that prioritized dignity and stability for all residents.

### **Hon. Wilson Goode, Sr.** PIONEERING PERMANENT SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS

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The Honorable Wilson Goode, Sr., the first Black mayor of Philadelphia (1984–1992), left a lasting impact on the fight against homelessness through the creation of the Philadelphia One Step Away program, a model for permanent housing solutions. His administration's commitment to housing-first strategies laid the groundwork for lasting change in how the city addressed homelessness. After leaving office, Goode continued his advocacy, spearheading programs that helped formerly incarcerated individuals and unhoused citizens find stable housing and employment. His legacy continues to inspire efforts to provide long-term solutions over temporary fixes, ensuring that those experiencing homelessness have access to resources that lead to lasting independence.





# New Partnership with Philadelphia International Airport to Support Unsheltered Individuals Makes This Possible

SELF, Inc. is proud to announce our new partnership with Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) to provide direct outreach and support services to unsheltered individuals within the airport. Through this collaboration, our team will offer onsite engagement, needs assessments, and access to essential provisions, ensuring that individuals experiencing homelessness at PHL have a pathway to shelter and support services.

## **Our outreach efforts will include:**

- After-hours placement and transportation to Office of Homeless Services (OHS) access points
- Onsite engagement to assess immediate needs and connect individuals to available resources
- Provisions such as water, light snacks, and transportation within a 20-mile radius for those interested in further support

This partnership reflects SELF's commitment to meeting people where they are, ensuring that no one is left without options or assistance. By working directly with Philadelphia International Airport, we are expanding our reach and helping individuals find a path to stability.