



## Tenant Advocate Dorothy Edwards Named to CSH Board of Directors

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**NEW YORK, NY.** – **CSH**, a national nonprofit, has announced the appointment of Dorothy Edwards to its Board of Directors. The term of service, which begins immediately, is for three years.

For over 20 years, CSH has demonstrated how supportive housing improves the lives of individuals and families, and builds stronger communities. Supportive housing uses affordable housing as a platform to create stability so that individuals or families can access and pursue the array of community services they need to transform their lives and move forward.

“We are delighted that Dorothy Edwards accepted the invitation to join our Board, especially since she is one of the most passionate advocates for supportive housing and the thousands who have been helped by it,” said Deborah De Santis, President and CEO of CSH. “Dorothy has a long association with CSH as one of our tenant advocates, and she is an articulate champion with the personal life story that proves supportive housing works.”

### **About Dorothy Edwards**

**Ms. Edwards** is formerly homeless and is currently part of the CSH Los Angeles supportive housing advocate program in which she speaks to elected officials both locally and at the state level about the impact of supportive housing. The following paragraphs are from a [USA Today](#) article highlighting mental illness in America:

*Dorothy Edwards knows the despair and paranoia that cripple the mentally ill from seeking help and finding an apartment. For eight years, Edwards, 56, wandered the streets of Pasadena, Calif., sleeping in alleys, scouring Dumpsters for scraps of food and smoking meth to fend off a crushing depression. Her teeth were rotting, and sores broke out all over her body. She was sexually assaulted repeatedly and had her belongings stolen multiple times.*

*When things got truly bleak, Edwards would check herself into the psych ward of a hospital, only to be back on the streets within days. Various friends ravaged emotionally by the homeless life had flung themselves off the Colorado Street Bridge in Pasadena, known locally as "suicide bridge." She considered using the bridge herself, she says.*

*"It was looking pretty good to me," Edwards says. "I had run out of options."*

*Shortly after, she was approached by a worker from Housing Works, a Los Angeles homeless outreach center. The worker escorted Edwards to a processing center, where counselors diagnosed her with depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, found her an apartment and assigned her a caseworker.*

*Today, Edwards lives in a one-bedroom apartment in Pasadena with her 8-year-old mixed-breed dog, Gunner. The paranoia and anxiety still creep in periodically, especially late at night, but the medications and a watchful caseworker help her through it.*

## **About CSH**

**CSH** has led the supportive housing movement for over 20 years, demonstrating its potential to improve the lives of very vulnerable individuals and families. CSH has earned a sterling reputation as a highly effective, financially stable organization, with strong partnerships across government, community organizations, foundations, and financial institutions. CSH is advancing innovative solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve lives, maximize public resources, and build healthy communities. We are working to assure that housing solutions are accessible to more people in more places.