
Donald Hugh Whitehead Jr. – Consultant/Motivational Speaker

Donald Whitehead Jr. is a leading authority on homelessness, substance abuse, and racial equity, with over 30 years of experience and personal recovery from homelessness and active addiction. He is the Executive Director of the National Coalition for the Homeless and co-founder of Racial Equity Partners. Donald also serves on the Homeless Veterans Advisory Committee for the Secretary of the Department of Veteran Affairs. His career encompasses a wide range of roles in homeless services, from outreach to executive leadership.

Throughout his career, Donald has held prominent positions, including two terms as President of the National Coalition for the Homeless, membership on the Board of Directors for Faces and Voices of Recovery, and contributions to the Georgetown Center for Cultural Competency. He has served on the State of Maryland Drug and Alcohol Policy Council and the Baltimore Ten-Year Planning Committee to End Homelessness. Donald has testified before the 107th and 108th Congress, providing both oral and written testimony, and was instrumental in the creation and introduction of the "Bringing America Home Act," a landmark piece of legislation addressing homelessness in the U.S. His work has earned him accolades such as the Distinguished Service Award from the Congressional Black Caucus and a Special Recognition Award from Congress in 2008.

Donald has spearheaded impactful housing initiatives, including providing homes for 300 chronically homeless individuals in central Florida in 2016 and housing over 200 unsheltered individuals in Prince George County, Maryland, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. In 2025, he was appointed Reinvestment Commissioner in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and elected Vice Chair of the DC Poverty Council.

A frequent guest on major media platforms, Donald has appeared on the Dr. Phil show, CBS News, ABC News, FOX TV, CNN, MSNBC, C-Span, NEWSMAX, and various local stations. His radio appearances include CBS Radio, NPR, The Tavis Smiley Show, The Tom Joyner Morning Show, and international broadcasts in Great Britain, Germany, Canada, and Mexico. He has also been a dinner guest of former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Donald studied Communications and African American Studies at the City College of Chicago, The University of Cincinnati, and Union College and University in Ohio. He served as a journalist in the United States Navy. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Donald is a stand-up comedian and actor, with performances in six movies, multiple commercials, stage plays, and network television shows. He earned a regional Emmy for his role in the movie "Open the Sky." Donald resides in Laurel, Maryland, with his wife, Tracy Whitehead.