

Billie the Van - Transportation/Mobility/Access Solidarity - Days of Action

Eradicate Waste and Build Home with a Capital H!

Purpose: The purpose of this organizing document is to memorialize Days of Action with Billie the Community Van. Billie's primary purpose is to eradicate waste and to serve as a vessel for those who are seeking to [Build Home with a Capital H](#). **Furniture deliveries happen on Sundays from 6am-1pm** through the [DC Mutual Aid Network Facebook Group](#) - make a post there if you are offering previously-loved furniture/home goods or to ask for what You want or need. Also be sure to check out your local [Buy Nothing](#) + [Free Cycle](#) groups so we can Collectively Eradicate Waste and Build Our Home. Billie's secondary purpose is for Days of Action called "[Food Sovereignty adVentures](#)" where members of the mutual aid community canvass and assess grocery distributions, food banks, food pantries, and other free resources within a geographically-accessible area to determine what is the most amount of healthy, nutritious food with those resources, share these recipes, distribute excess ingredients and solicit feedback about the taste, accessibility, nutritional qualities, and CHOICE of the Community. Billie's third purpose is to facilitate Solidarity Rides - transporting people, supplies, and/or investments in to [BIPOC-Stewarded Farms/Land](#), businesses/cooperatives, political initiatives, and court support.

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Our Little Siblings + [EYL 365 Project](#)

Meet Billie the Van!

Billie Belongs to the Community!

She was [borne](#) out of the **DC Mutual Aid Network** <> **The Spirit of Solidarity** (not charity).

She's been [blessed](#) by the **Hands** <> **Creative Expression** <> **Unconditional Love of Our Little Siblings**

(+ **EYL365 Project**

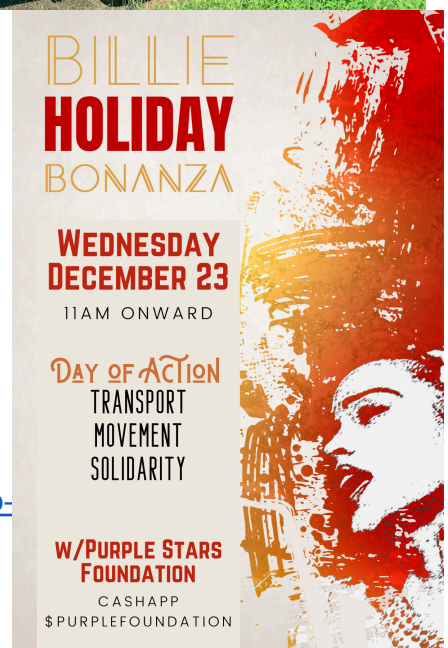
<https://www.eyl365project.com/> + **Play and Thrive DC** <https://www.playandthriveDC.com/>).



She's [co-piloted](#) by **Sovereigns** Tameka Williams, Executive Director of **Purple Stars Foundation**¹ and Tara Vassefi, who feels this way about and through Tameka: "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

¹ GIVE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN

https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-us-with-a-delivery-truck-and-hub-share-flow-1&utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer



She's been cared for, sanitized, fueled, maintained, by countless members of the Community as well as Community Collectives consistently practicing the healing ritual of mutual aid.

She is the *prototype* for **Decolonized Wealth** <> **Decentralized Cooperativism (dCoop)** >< **Truth As A Public Good in Sustainable Economic Models** <> generation-All HEALth
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_RYFIdyi3HZCF6wJKlhzuaxoL1i3sE2BEPiZ4VJ-B0/edit?usp=sharing



Support <> Pay Forward with Gratitude

If you'd like to help support city-wide furniture delivery, you're welcome to CashApp what you can to [\\$PurpleFoundation](#) with the note "Solidarity" - your donation is tax deductible.

Option 1: \$0 + something non-monetary you can offer
Tell us your craziest ideas

Option 2: \$20 per vehicle
Each of the trucks in our network costs about \$80-100 to fill the tank. If you can offer this amount, it will help us keep this going.

Option 3: \$50 per moving helper
Each of the individuals operating the trucks receives immense non-monetary value from this work. To help with lifting and moving, we try to find folx in Community who are interested in doing this in the spirit of solidarity but many of them do not have sources of income. If you could offer anything to value their labor and time, that would be much appreciated.

...

Transportation//Movement Solidarity in DC

If you'd like to learn some more about Transportation Movement Solidarity in DC, see this publicly-accessible document on [DC Mutual Aid Network - Transportation/Movement/Mobility Organizing](#)

<<Note >> no Personally Identifiable Information!

Sample Days of Action

Comp Plan Rally May 9, 2021 - Billie the Van - driven by Tara

This Sunday's Day of Action is dedicated to the madness that is DC's Comprehensive Plan. The only way to understand it is for each of us to find the section that "plans" our own Home/Neighborhood within the 1,189 page document ([current version](#)) and understand how that plan is going to affect US in the next 5-10 years.

Time	General location	Item to be picked up or delivered	Where in the Comp Plan!
9:00am	Adams Morgan		https://www.dropbox.com/sh/spty70s5oo5yfem/AADUSUH999hZBrW8TCr2V9Zra?dl=0&preview=Chapter+20_Public_Review_Draft_Mid+City_4+20+21.pdf
9:30am	Capitol Hill	Pick Up: Tv stand	https://www.dropbox.com/sh/spty70s5oo5yfem/AADUSUH999hZBrW8TCr2V9Zra?dl=0&preview=Chapter+15_Public_Review_Draft_CH_4+20+21.pdf
10:30am	Barry Farm	Drop Off: Tv stand	https://www.dropbox.com/sh/spty70s5oo5yfem/AADUSUH999hZBrW8TCr2V9Zra?dl=0&preview=Chapter+18_Public_Review_Draft_Far+SE+SW_4+20+21.pdf
11:30am	Anacostia	Pick Up: Bed	https://www.dropbox.com/sh/spty70s5oo5yfem/AADUSUH999hZBrW8TCr2V9Zra?dl=0&preview=Chapter+18_Public_Review_Draft_Far+SE+SW_4+20+21.pdf

12:00pm	Anacostia	Drop Off: Bed	https://www.dropbox.com/sh/spty70s5oo5y/fem/AADUSUH999hZBrW8TCr2V9Zra?dl=0&preview=Chapter+18_Public_Review_Draft_Far+SE+SW_4+20+21.pdf
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Feb. 4, 2021 - Billie the Van - driven by Tara

Time	General location	Item to be picked up or delivered	Notes
5:00pm	Benning Road SE	Pick Up: Table	
6:00pm	Mt. Pleasant	Pick Up: Full mattress + bed	
7:30pm	Takoma	Pick Up: 6 chairs	
8:00pm	Brightwood	Drop Off: 6 chairs and table	
8:30pm	Brightwood	Pick Up: Black chair	
9:00pm	Glover Park	Drop Off: Full mattress + bed	
9:30pm	Navy Yard	Pick Up: Futon frame and mattress	
10:0pm	Barry Farm	Drop Off: Futon frame and mattress	
10:30pm	Buena Vista	Drop Off: Black chair	
Next day some time	Adams Morgan	Pick Up: Queen mattress	
Next day some time	Van Ness	Drop Off:	

		Queen mattress	
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Moving Day - Jan. 24, 2021 - Billie the Van - driven by Tara

This Day of Action included a mutual aid community member who is offering a bunch of items on moving day. Testing out the logistics and coordination of a single offeror, many recipients, and how to do this on a time crunch.

Time	General location	Item to be picked up or delivered	Notes
7:00am	Tenleytown	Pick Up: 1. Chest of drawers 2. Fridge 3. Arm chairs 4. Coffee table	Tara + Patrick moving from house to van
9:00am	Petworth	Drop off Fridge	Recipient has lifters/carriers coordinated
10:00am	Takoma	Drop off arm chairs; coffee table;	Recipient has lifters/carriers coordinated
11:00am	Navy Yard	Pick up tv stand	Offeror has lifters/carriers coordinated
12:00pm	Capitol Hill	pick up couch	offeror has lifters/carriers coordinated
1:00pm	Anacostia	Drop off chest of drawers	Recipient has lifters/carriers coordinated
2:00pm	Deanwood	drop off tv stand	Recipient has lifters/carriers coordinated
3:00pm	Arlington	Fix housing issue	
4:00	Van Ness	Drop off couch	Recipient has lifters/carriers

Jan. 9, 2021 - Billie the Van - driven by Tara

Time	General location	Item to be picked up or delivered	Notes
7:00	Brookland	Pick Up: Chest	
8:00	Brentwood	Drop Off: Chest	
9:00	Navy Yard	Pick Up: Dresser and TV	
10:00	Anacosta	Drop Off: Unicorn	
12:00	Anacostia	Pick Up: Books	
1:00	Barry Farm	Drop Off: Books	
2:00	Congress Heights	Drop Off: Dresser and TV	
3:00	Benning	Pick Up + Drop Off: Dinner, Plant	

Billie HOLIDAY Bonanza - Dec. 23 - Billie the Van - driven by Tara

Starting in Ward 1 and ending in Ward 8. Raising awareness about transportation/access issues
[DC Mutual Aid Network - Transportation/Movement/Mobility Organizing](#)

Time	General location	Item to be picked up or delivered	Notes
10:00	U Street Corridor	Pick Up: 1. Large couch (The couch dimensions are 108x38x28. One part of the couch can also be unhatched from the rest, which	Tara and offeror lifting/moving into van - really difficult pivoting it out door and over a small/fence and gate at the entrance of the

		decreases the length and will make it easier to transport. The length of the piece that can be removed and reattached is 39".) 2. Small table 3. 2 Boxes of kitchen items 4. Three mirrors 5. Ironing board	building - trick to fitting it in the van was to stack the pieces of the couch on top of each other - see pics below
11:00	Downtown	Pick Up: TV Stand	Offeror lifting/moving into van
1:00	Navy Yard	Pick Up: Collapsible twin bed	Fit perfectly as the last piece - KK was able to look at the bulk pick up (at 10:00 and decide what additional pieces of the delivery request spreadsheet could fit) choosing collapsible twin bed and TV stand
Lunch and errand break			
4:00	Benning Ridge SE	Deliver: TV stand, mirror	
5:00	Benning NE	Deliver: collapsible twin bed, mirrors, ironing board	
6:00	Greenway SE	Deliver: Large couch, small table, box of kitchen items	Confirmed movers/carriers
7:00	Deanwood NE	Deliver: winter clothes	

~~Dec. 22~~ - (needed to be rescheduled because initial offeror was not available) Billie the Van - driven by Tara

Time	General location	Item to be picked up or delivered	Notes
4:00pm	Tenleytown	Pick Up: 1. Chest of drawers 2. Fridge 3. Arm chairs 4. Coffee table	
5:00 - 6:00	Petworth	Drop off Fridge	Recipient has lifters/carriers coordinated
5:00 - 7:00	Takoma	Drop off arm chairs; coffee table	Recipient has lifters/carriers coordinated

For The Archives <> Authenticity Manifest

Billie is Borne in the Spirit of Solidarity Not Charity

www.facebook.com/groups/492881801379594/posts/6243117415699 Facebook 1111 80%



DC Mutual Aid Network



October 16, 2020 · 🌐

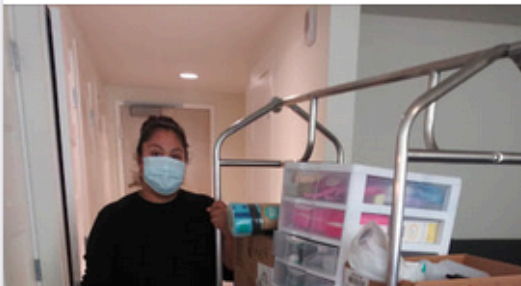
...

I started my day incredibly anxious about moving. I was determined to make a move to a new apartment by myself, to set things up while my SO is away. One person that I had connected to recently in this group is [redacted]. As I told her about my anticipation and concerns about doing this work, [redacted] offered to help me if I could arrange transportation for her. I considered it and negotiated the measures I wanted her to take for us to do the work safely, and she agreed (mainly, wearing a mask religiously).

I was happy I was going to have someone to accompany me on this difficult day, but [redacted] brought a lot more than just her presence. She is SO strong! I only expected help with transporting items in boxes, but she single-handedly disassembled, transported, and reassembled my king size bed - I was incredibly surprised and pleased. [redacted] also expressed that she is interested and available for work involving moving, but sometimes people don't believe she has as much strength as a man and dismiss her for this work. I hope that the below photos (permission to post granted) will dispel any ideas about that!

Throughout the move, [redacted] was professional, organized, focused, quick, and considerate. There are a lot of logistics and considerations to complete moving tasks and do them well. [redacted] excels at all of these and it's very clear that she has a lot of experience. I did my best to keep up and do my part of the work, but [redacted]'s skills are light years ahead of mine in this area. I was SO touched by her help, support, and connection. Afterward, as I was incredibly grateful, I ordered some dinner for her family to pay it forward. Today was an intense reminder of the fact that while I get a lot out of helping others, I don't need to do everything alone myself and it's so important to lean on others in the community when we need to.

Please feel free to ask me other questions about the assistance I received from Kati. Perhaps [redacted] would also welcome your questions about what she is able to do or she may be available if you have work you need done.





DC Mutual Aid Network



Admin

So I've been daydreaming about pitching in for a mutual aid community van/truck. **Admin** if we're able to fundraise for a truck, is this something you'd want to do more often?

Like · Reply · 1y



Admin

Yayyy ok great can't wait to mind meld on this. All If anyone is interested in chipping in ideas, money, time to this idea comment here or DM me.

Like · Reply · 1y



Author

This is a great idea for a way to allow others to contribute their people power directly. I know many can't drive but SO many are willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work. It's amazing.

Like · Reply · 1y



Admin

I've found some great used trucks on Craigslist. Thinking through insurance and liability **Admin** and I are speaking on Friday. I'll keep you all updated.

Like · Reply · 1y



Author

This would be amazing to use to deliver rather than using my personal vehicle (not sure if you are talking about that or not)

Like · Reply · 1y



Author

yessssss. Thank you!! This is also something I've been daydreaming of, but haven't had the time to execute, like everyone else. Lol Basically finding an avenue to pay folks who could use the work to do the rounds like so many of us are doing w our own vehicle or paying for Uber connect, etc. Of course, I recognize how privileged I am to be able to do this, but trying to find efficiencies and more sustainable options for all. Happy to chat, too. Go team! ❤️

Like · Reply · 1y





DC Mutual Aid Network

**BLACK FOOD
GEOGRAPHIES:
RACE, SELF-
RELIANCE AND
FOOD ACCESS
IN
WASHINGTON,
DC
BY PROF.
ASHANTÉ M.
REESE**



Admin

Update: I spoke with [redacted] who generously offered a truck for these purposes and for a variety of reasons we're going to have to look for another avenue. For those interested, I have been doing a lot of research into this idea and evaluating the needs over months of moderating/observing transportation/food access gaps in our fair city. Special shout-out to [redacted] for introducing us to the most important/informative resource I've found thus far in this hunt (and probably the best book I've come across in years) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/492881801379594/permalink/616243962376710>. I also am very fortunate to have the world's best advisor on these matters since my dad has been in the wholesale pre-owned car business since we moved to America 30 years ago! So here is exactly what I'm looking for:

<https://delaware.craigslist.org/.../milto.../7206500708.html> - Ideally it should have less than 70,000 miles on it and I need the Vin# so my dad can look into the car history to see if there are any underlying issues. I'm having a call with [redacted] on Friday to understand a little more about the needs and opportunities from the perspective of the people actually doing the work, and hope to shape a solution centered around and built iteratively around them.

This is what #Community looks like. I know we have a lot of problems to solve but all I see is hope.



Like · Reply · 1y · Edited



[redacted] interested in helping if possible

Like · Reply · 1y





DC Mutual Aid Network



Tara Vassefi Admin

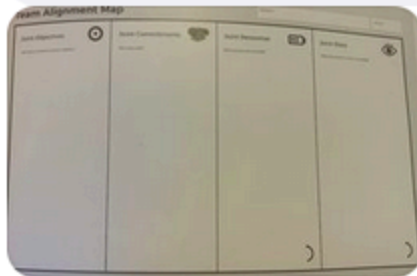
Update: I spoke to Kati Cruz yesterday and got a chance to wonderfully invalidate/validate a bunch of my assumptions.

Anyone who is interested in joining a quick check-in 1/2 hour Transportation Organizing call please:

- 1) fill out this Doodle <https://doodle.com/poll/zm43eyrg28dmpbky> and
- 2) DM me the name/alias you used to fill out the Doodle and your preferred medium of contact (email address, phone number, Facebook messenger, whatever you prefer).

Then I will see if we can get a Zoom call time that works for a lot of us to just jot down some thoughts on lessons/inspiration, objectives, commitments, resources, risks: <https://docs.google.com/.../18NyN8hphWuttGw.../edit...>

For those who can't join, we will not be recording it but will make sure to distill the key points of the conversation into that Google Doc while keeping transparency and privacy top of mind.



Like · Reply · 1y



Tara Vassefi Admin

Kassandra Kearse would love if you can make it on the call! If you think others in the Community who aren't tracking this random thread would be interested feel free to post in the Discussion or let me know and I can do it.

Like · Reply · 1y



DC Mutual Aid Network



Author

I just feel like I have to reiterate, when I could barely walk anymore she was still going strong!

Like · Reply · 1y



yep! Sounds about right! 🤔👍👏

Like · Reply · 1y



Jan

Like · Reply · 1y



100 ...

Like · Reply · 1y



This is a lovely story.

Like · Reply · 1y



This makes me so happy 😊

Like · Reply · 1y



I know someone who needs help moving Wed or Thurs this week -- will pm you now if that's ok!

Like · Reply · 1y



Kati can I PM you?


Like · Reply · 46w

Billie is Discovered by Queen Tameka Williams, One-Woman Mutual Aid Network, Executive Director and Founder of Purple Stars Foundation

Tara Vassefi, the current Steward of Billie the Van, did not know Tameka Williams personally though she had come to revere Tameka from afar. Tara reached out to another person on the “City-Wide Delivery Team” to update them on Learning that a minivan or cargo van was likely a better option than a pick-up AND to get their thoughts on whether Tameka might be interested in being her co-pilot for such an idea (likely yes!). A few days later week later the person sent Tara this:

11/23/20, 3:54 pm

re: trucks - [https://www.facebook.com/groups/492881801379594/permalink/650844245583348/?comment_id=651253115542461&reply_comment_id=651261548874951&__cft__\[Q\]=AZWIUcD-OijW5Zxw5E3Efril5p-LXWD1gA4GtcUSu_rtJb1MgPqovltjROMul-BTHERFyaFP7D9N7thEeW470O2kkgPxIUeoZqYLS47-RnM5ljKLzEnJahNv26Sli1z5UV4&__tn__=R\]-R](https://www.facebook.com/groups/492881801379594/permalink/650844245583348/?comment_id=651253115542461&reply_comment_id=651261548874951&__cft__[Q]=AZWIUcD-OijW5Zxw5E3Efril5p-LXWD1gA4GtcUSu_rtJb1MgPqovltjROMul-BTHERFyaFP7D9N7thEeW470O2kkgPxIUeoZqYLS47-RnM5ljKLzEnJahNv26Sli1z5UV4&__tn__=R]-R)



Tameka Williams

Is this mad synchronicity???

must be!

sometimes it just works out

like me forming the chat group, energy and momentum accumulated until it was formed!

Madness

In the best way

😊

Was thinking of having another meeting soon, but miiiight want to skip this week's



DC Mutual Aid Network



Hi there!! This is so amazing! I'm happy to help with any of the above items except #2 due to back problems. I would probably be best at #5, but also #3 and #4 as well. I also know we were discussing at one point buying a DC Mutual Aid truck or van to do something like this. Might be worth doing and seeing if financially that would be more affordable then weekly Uhaul pickups. Just lmk how I can assist! Thanks again for doing this!!

Like · Reply · 1y · Edited



Tameka Williams

A purchase is a good idea. I saw a cargo type van for sale. I'll have to check back for price. I think it was about \$5000, not sure

Like · Reply · 1y



Tameka Williams I definitely think we'd be able to raise that money! We could talk to local businesses in the community to help sponsor it as well (and would be more then happy to help organize)

Like · Reply · 1y · Edited



Author

I really think we could get funding from the DC Council if we get a smart proposal together. I'm really excited that Christina was elected to the Council and think her office might be an ally.

Like · Reply · 1y



Author

Does anyone have a connection?

Like · Reply · 1y



Author

Rebecca Lamis let's work all avenues. I agree that acquiring a vehicle might be a solid move.

Like · Reply · 1y



Michele Keegan I will send you a dm!

Like · Reply · 1y



Billie is Blessed By The Hands <> Creative Expression <> Unconditional Love of Our Little Siblings

Billie was stolen off of Mintwood Place in NW DC in February 2020. When Tara Vassefi, the current Steward of Billie the Van, noticed that Billie was missing she called 311 assuming she had been towed for some reason. When 311 saw that the vehicle did not show up in the towing records, they immediately patched Tara in to the police, much to Tara's chagrin. You See, Tara Has Proof Beyond a Reasonable Doubt that **The Police Do Not Keep Us Safe** <> White-Violence Safeguarded <> Black Bodies Abducted
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qLHYkTgqZJJnL4baAF3DgeKE7mf4qH5GWNLIENXF05c/edit?usp=sharing>. Because Billie was stolen in NW DC, within 10 minutes 4(!!!) officers showed up and spent about two hours "investigating."

Tara called her father, someone who knows everything there is to know about the car industry having navigated it successfully as a small-business owner and used car dealer for over 30 years, and though her father *might* not describe himself as an "*abolitionist*" he immediately informed Tara that the police would play no role in finding Billie. Then he said the most profound thing Tara had ever heard: "society is governed by law. **Community Is Governed By Love.**"
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-cP8YFO9HXuLPZRJIUoESpdLTqxpCI5bwY-wJF5KXI/edit?usp=sharing>

Tara's father was Absolutely Correct! Three weeks after Billie went missing, a church in Arlington, Virginia called 311 to report that there was an abandoned vehicle in their parking lot and presumably at some point Arlington police got involved. Tara was first notified that Billie was found by her insurance company - not the police - "we have no further information we just wanted to let you know that your vehicle showed up in our database as found! You should be receiving a call from the police soon." Some time later, Tara received a call from a detective from the Metropolitan Police Department and hilarity ensued:

"We found your vehicle... umm can you tell us what's in it?"

"It's a mutual aid delivery van so there's a lot of stuff in it. Do you want me to list them all out?"

"Uhh... yeah sure..."

"Okayyy: diapers, adult diapers, canned food, snow removal salt, a couple of chairs, I think there was a small side table, cleaning supplies, bag, tote bags, plastic bags, tools... do you want me to keep going?"

"Uhh...let me put it this way, would there be any reason there would be ATMs in there?"

"No I can't think of a reason there would be ATMs in there."

"Okay good. That's what we thought. So there's ATMs in there and you get to keep one!"

Jokes. I mean, it's true that there were ATMs in there but it's not true that Tara got to keep one. ;-)

After months (!!!!literally many months, Billie gets shaken down by the Arlington police, some kind of federal law enforcements [due to "cross state boundaries"], MPD, investigators get Covid!!!) Tara gets Billie back and sets out to find an artist or two or 10 or 30 who could give Billie a makeover, Recognizable and Governed - not by law but - By Love!

Enter [Play and Thrive DC](#) who introduced Billie to [EYL365 Project](#) (Enjoy Your Life 365!) and together they created a safe space for Our Little Siblings to Use Their Hands <> Creatively Express <> Bless Billie the Van.







Guidance from Our Little Siblings! Will We Hear Them?

BE SUPER!

Love Yourself



Tara's favorite part of Billie: a Precious Little Sibling who was as tall as Bille's wheels
Took So Much Time to mix alllllll those colors and draw each and every moon along the
driver side. His name is Bryson.