



A BUDGET FOR ALL OF US

Project H.O.M.E.'s Advocacy Department has played a critical role in helping to form the Southeastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Essential Services, a broad-based coalition of over 80 nonprofits, local government and private sector agencies that provide services to improve the quality of life for people of this region. The Coalition has been advocating with state legislators to break the months-long budget stalemate, which is having a devastating impact on children, families, seniors, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable members of our communities, and the organizations and agencies that serve them. Through rallies, letter writing, call-in campaigns, and other efforts, the Coalition has urged the Governor and the General Assembly to pass a budget that ensures an adequate safety net for all Pennsylvanians. As we go to press, the budget crisis is still not fully resolved. To get involved, contact Jennine Miller at jmiller@projecthome.org or 215-232-7272.

NEW RESOURCES

City officials and advocates are hopeful that the Obama Administration's much-touted economic stimulus plan will help Philadelphians who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. The City has begun implementing its Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP), utilizing \$21.4 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the "Stimulus"), which will be allocated over three years. Part of the funds –

homelessness prevention – will assist low-income households at risk of losing their homes with support for rent, utilities, security deposits, and/or moving costs. The Rapid Rehousing Program provides similar assistance plus case management, legal



assistance, credit repair, and short- and medium-term rent support. It will operate on a referral basis through City-funded emergency and transitional housing programs. For more information, see www.oneneighborhood.org.

DOWNTOWN DILEMMAS

Project H.O.M.E. is partnering with the American Bar Association, the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Homeless Advocacy Project, the City of Philadelphia, and other groups to host "Downtown Dilemma," a conference on

November 23, which will explore issues related to legal efforts to restrict public behavior of people who are homeless: What are the social, economic, and political consequences of such ordinances and laws? Are there models of successful approaches to the "downtown dilemma"? Details will be forthcoming. For more information, contact Laura Weinbaum, Director of Public Policy, at 215-232-7272, ext.3037, or lauraweinbaum@projecthome.org.

SPREADING THE FAITH

Project H.O.M.E. was pleased to welcome best-selling author Mitch Albom, whose new book, *Have a Little Faith*, covers issues of faith, homelessness, and struggle. Mitch headlined a benefit for Project H.O.M.E. on September 29, which included his friends Tony Bennett, Bob Costas, James McBride, and Angelo Cataldi. He also spent time with many of our staff and residents, seeking to better understand the realities of homelessness and the kinds of solutions that work.

A WORTHY TRIBUTE

We are thrilled that our great friend Harvey Finkle is being honored by Bread and Roses at this year's "Tribute to Change" celebration on October 15. For more than three decades, Harvey's camera has captured the heart and soul of social justice efforts in Philadelphia and around the world. His photography has had an enormous influence, and his passion for justice has been a great inspiration to many of us. Congratulations, Harvey!

Men of Light Shine the Way for Youth With the Help of a Phillies' Star

FOR TWO YEARS, a group of amazing men calling themselves "Men of Light" have shined the way for many teenage boys at Rowan Homes, our permanent housing residence for formerly homeless families. Led by Reverend Van Copeland and Bishop Anaiah Sims from a worship community in New Jersey, the Men of Light meet weekly with the teenage residents of Rowan Homes (and some of their neighborhood friends), providing support and companionship, as well as chaperoning numerous field trips. Over the years, the Men of Light have formed powerful mentor relationships with the group, whom they call Boys to Men. They discuss anything from current events to college applications to family and school stresses, and they compete in basketball games and an annual softball tournament near the Cooper River. This summer, the Men of Light and Boys to Men had the opportunity to be a part of *Ibañez Team Resurgence*, a program of the Philadelphia Phillies all-star Raul Ibañez and his wife Teri. Raul, a great supporter of educational causes, encouraged the boys to stay in school and go to college. The Ibanezes provided *Ibañez Team Resurgence* t-shirts, a ballpark meal, and 100-level tickets in left field for nearly 75 Project H.O.M.E. young people – allowing them to cheer on their favorite left field star. Our deepest thanks to Raul Ibañez and to the Men of Light for offering their meaningful support to our young people.





CELEBRATING THE PAST...

ON SEPTEMBER 23, almost a thousand supporters of Project H.O.M.E. gathered at the Marriott Hotel in Center City for a gala celebration of our 20th Anniversary. Friends old and new enjoyed great food, wonderful community, and a range of speakers, presentations, and memories. Proceeds raised at the gala will meet various needs in our mission: providing critical services for adults and families who are currently homeless and low-income; an endowment for educational and workforce development at the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs; and an operating reserve for our homeless and residential programs. Jon Bon Jovi was presented with the inaugural Golden Heart Award “with gratitude from the Project H.O.M.E. community for [his] unwavering leadership, profound generosity, and heartfelt compassion.”



Photo by Rodney Akanza

The gala featured videos produced by Comcast which told the stories of several Project H.O.M.E. residents who overcame homelessness: (left to right) Ron Ferguson, Yvonne Bailey, Hyacinth King, Richard Bogue, and George Smith come on stage, applauded by co-founder Joan McConnon (far right).

... AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

AS WE CONTINUE to struggle in tough economic times, we are even more grateful for friends and supporters who continue to make a commitment with their funds, their time, their talent, and their concern to further the work of ending homelessness and poverty. Some of our recent major donors include the following:

Claneil Foundation • Mr. Fozan E. Ehmedi • The Engle Foundation • Homeless Assistance Fund, Inc. • Hope For Philadelphia Homeless • Independence Foundation • Mrs. Carolyn Langfitt • The Thomas E. Cahill, James McSherry and Nellie Grimes McSherry, Aunt Mary Grimes, and Lt. John T. Murphy KIA Fund • The Pew Charitable Trusts • Philadelphia Corporation for Aging • The Philadelphia Foundation • State Government Affairs Council Foundation

Thanks to the support of countless friends, sponsors, and volunteers, Project H.O.M.E.'s 20th Anniversary Gala on September 23 was a resounding success. A special thanks to our presenting sponsors **Comcast** and the **Philadelphia Phillies**; our visionary sponsors **Lynne and Harold Honickman, Leigh and John Middleton**, and **James and Frances Maguire**; our Gala Committee co-chairs, **Kathy Anderson** and **Susan Sherman**; and our evening's honoree, **Jon Bon Jovi**. For a full list of sponsors, please go to our website at www.projecthome.org/news.

Thanks to the generosity and vision of our Trustee, John S. Connors, and his wife, Sheila, Project H.O.M.E. completed its second year of the **John and Sheila Connors Youth Employment Program**. The program aims to provide youth who are actively engaged in the After-School Teen Program at the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs with paid summer internships to broaden their horizons, provide skills, and build a foundation for future careers. This past summer, twenty of our youth completed six-week internships at area businesses and organizations as well as throughout Project H.O.M.E. departments.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are part of the lifeblood of Project H.O.M.E. We are grateful for your many remarkable contributions. Here are some of our current needs:

- **Administrative Support:** Assist Volunteer Coordinator with general office duties and coordination of the holiday volunteer program, and beyond the holidays with continuing support of our volunteer program, including answering phones and talking with potential new volunteers, filing, database management, and coordination of group events. Minimum 5 hours/week, hours are flexible. Immediate help needed!
- **Facilitate a “Friday Club Activity” for K-6 After-School Program:** One hour of activities for the children, which could include music, singing, dance, arts and crafts, yoga and meditation for children, or other ideas. One-time volunteers welcome, weekly volunteers making a semester commitment ideal. Fridays any time between 3:30 and 6:00 p.m.

To be part of the Project H.O.M.E. community by volunteering, contact Erin O'Brien at 215-232-7272 ext. 3015, or erinobrien@projecthome.org.



PROJECT H.O.M.E.

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Philadelphia, PA 19130
www.projecthome.org

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PROJECT H.O.M.E.

(Housing, Opportunities for
Employment, Medical Care, Education)

empowers people to break the cycle of homelessness, address the structural causes of poverty, and attain their fullest potential as members of society. Our work is rooted in our conviction of the dignity of each person and our belief that all are entitled to decent, affordable housing and quality education, employment, and health care. We achieve this through street outreach; supportive housing; comprehensive services; community development; employment training and opportunities; adult and youth education; health care; environmental enhancement; and political advocacy.

RESIDENCES

1515 and 1523 Fairmount Avenue
Diamond Street Residences, 2826-29 Diamond St.
In Community, 1229 Chestnut St.
Kairos House, 1440 N. Broad St.
Kate's Place, 1929 Sansom St.
Rowan I, 2729-A W. Diamond St.
Rowan II, 1901 N. Judson St.
St. Columba, 4133 Chestnut St.
St. Elizabeth's Recovery, 1850 N. Croskey St.
Women of Change, 21st & Arch Sts.

SUPPORT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Adult Education, Employment & Arts
Community Development Corporation
Education and Advocacy
Honickman Learning Center and
Comcast Technology Labs
Outreach Coordination Center
Volunteer Program

BUSINESSES

Our Daily Threads, 215-232-7272, ext. 3024
H.O.M.E. Page Café, 215-320-6191

ADMINISTRATION
215-232-7272

HOMELESS OUTREACH HOTLINE
215-232-1984

HUMAN RESOURCES HOTLINE
215-232-7219 x5200

www.projecthome.org

Coming soon:

PROJECT H.O.M.E. ONLINE STORE

Support solutions to homelessness while you do your holiday shopping!

Many great items will be available for purchase, including mugs, t-shirts, artwork, special-order breads, holiday cards, and more! All products are produced through our Teen Program, our Employment Services, and the H.O.M.E. Page Café. Proceeds will directly benefit these programs. *Check our website for the upcoming launching!*

20th Anniversary Art Exhibit

*Celebrating Creativity
and Accomplishment*

Opens October 29, 2009
The Philadelphia Foundation
1234 Market Street, Center City

This exhibition, in partnership with The Philadelphia Foundation, features artwork of several current and former Project H.O.M.E. residents.

For more details, see
www.projecthome.org/events

Project H.O.M.E.

is now on **twitter!**



Follow us at www.twitter.com/projecthome.

H.O.M.E. PAGE café

**Free Library Parkway Branch
1901 Vine Street**

This innovative partnership between the Free Library of Philadelphia and Project H.O.M.E. provides jobs in a lovely and comfortable setting with wireless internet.

M-F, 9:00 - 5:00, Sat. 9:00 - 4:00
215-320-6191



A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.