



Dwelling Place

NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME

EMPOWERMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

SOMETIMES THE BEST revolutions are the quiet ones.

In recent years, mental health consumers have been at the forefront of a quiet but powerful revolution that is transforming services, practices, and policies around behavioral health. This revolution calls for a new understanding of mental health grounded in the notion of Recovery. It insists we stop approaching mental illness as a medical crisis needing a cure, nor should we simply manage it or accept its limitations. Instead, we embrace Recovery as a journey unique to each recovering person, a process of pursuing a fulfilling and contributing life regardless of the difficulties one has faced.

The word “recovery” has long been understood in the substance abuse world as a life-long process of both overcoming addiction and working to achieve and maintain sobriety and serenity. The mental health consumer movement has broadened the idea of recovery to embrace mental health issues – but it is ultimately a vision of full human potential. A vision of “Recovery Transformation” understands that behavioral health issues are not insurmountable obstacles to a meaningful, productive life, nor can they be contained by a medical model of symptoms needing intervention.

In describing its mission, Philadelphia’s Department of Behavioral Health puts it this way: “Recovery... involves not only the restoration but continued enhancement of a positive identity and personally meaningful connections and roles in one’s community. Recovery is facilitated by relationships and environments that provide hope, empowerment, choices, and opportunities that promote people reaching their full potential as individuals and community members.”

Across the country, this vision of Recovery is revolutionizing the behavioral health field. In response to the consumer movement, professionals, practitioners, policy-makers, and advocates have been embracing a Recovery approach. Even the Federal government has joined this revolution: Many of the policies and programs of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services related to behavioral health have been redirected from a mostly medical model to a Recovery Transformation model.

“**THIS IS A** fundamentally new and exciting direction for much of the behavioral health field,” says Patricia Holland, Project H.O.M.E.’s Vice President for Residential and Homeless Programs. “But actually, these are the basic values that Project H.O.M.E. has been grounded in for the past twenty years – dignity, community, and support for achieving one’s fullest potential.”

Project H.O.M.E., whose two decades of success have influenced this evolution of social policy, is now benefiting from the federal commitment. We are one of forty nonprofits around the country

that were awarded a highly competitive grant from the U.S. Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – \$400,000 annually over five years – which will enable us to implement the Recovery Transformation model.

Our residential and support services staff are already in the midst of extensive training and re-tooling of programs to achieve several key “best practices:” a greater emphasis on supportive and competitive employment; working with residents on “wellness self-management,” empowering them to practice better

self-health; and developing more critical supports for residents as they make key transitions in their lives.

A key goal of the Recovery Transformation model is to foster a culture of both peer empowerment and staff-resident partnership. Rather than assume that professional staff must provide services for “clients,” we want to deepen our commitment to and practice of a community environment in which persons with disabilities and those without, both “consumers” and “staff” (which is not always a clear distinction!) work side by side, sharing gifts, learning from and supporting each other.

Residents have been always at the heart of all we do. The Recovery Transformation model builds on and enhances that commitment. More and more Project H.O.M.E. residents have participated in peer support training. We are actively expanding residential councils to provide stronger venues for their voice and leadership. Many residents are taking leadership roles in developing and implementing our Recovery Transformation model as well as our overall organizational strategic plan.

JUST AS THIS revolution is changing the behavioral health field and even social policies, we are hopeful that the vision of Recovery Transformation can spread further and transform fundamental social attitudes and values. Dignity, community, hope and potential, empowerment and partnership – these are universal yearnings. All of us, whatever our backgrounds, have faced struggles, and we all want to believe those struggles do not ultimately define or constrain us, but they are the seeds for growth.

We are all, in some way, on a journey of recovery and transformation – and what better way to travel than in the company of friends, including all of you who are part of the Project H.O.M.E. community.



Recovery Transformation Offers A New Vision of Human Wholeness

Photo of residents and staff at 1515 Fairmount Avenue by Rodney Atienza

TAKING CHARGE OF OUR LIVES

CHARLENE TAYLOR SPREADS THE MESSAGE OF RECOVERY

CHARLENE TAYLOR HAS LIVED at Project H.O.M.E. for almost seven years. Today she speaks up for herself and other residents by participating in our Resident Advisory Committee and our Board of Trustees. But she is especially excited about playing a leadership role in the newly implemented Recovery Transformation Team. "It's a push," she says, about the organizational commitment to implementing the Recovery Transformation model (see article on page 1). "We need to get into this, we need to make a change."

In Charlene's words, recovery is about change, choice, hope, spirituality, and community. It's about being able to connect with family (if you choose to). It's about taking leadership in the community, and showing that whatever your goal is, you can accomplish it. She also stresses that addiction isn't the only area for recovery. People are overcoming all sorts of difficulties: eating disorders, mental illness, homelessness, and others.

Charlene is excited about how a Recovery model can improve

lives. "It will help motivate people to see that Project H.O.M.E. is not just a place to sleep and eat, it's a place where people are taking charge of their lives, moving on to better things." She highlighted the kinds of programs and values that make a difference: education, employment, self-determination, peer services, community inclusion, and empowerment.

As part of her role on the team, Charlene encourages other residents to get involved with opportunities such as Peer Specialist trainings, Resident Councils, Resident Advisory Committee, employment, even the alumni committee. It's sometimes difficult for residents to speak up, she says, especially if they aren't used to having opportunities to do so. "But it's for us to speak our opinions and have our voices heard, instead of holding back and waiting for things to happen." She insists, "And our voices *are* being heard."



News from H.O.M.E.

IN FROM THE COLD

With the winter cold upon us, Project H.O.M.E. is again opening our doors to vulnerable women who live on the streets. Our Women's Emergency Respite opened its doors in January, in the basement of 1515 Fairmount Avenue (with the support of residents who live there) to provide a safe and nurturing place for many of these women, who have a long history of street homelessness and rarely do well in ordinary shelters. Last year's respite was remarkably successful, as almost all of the forty-plus women who were regular guests took significant steps toward getting housing and services to help them break the cycle of homelessness.

WINNERS

For the fourth year, we honored special members of our community with the Fran Egan Civic Award. Given in conjunction with the family of Fran Egan, a longtime friend and dedicated supporter of Project H.O.M.E. who passed away in 2005, the annual Award honors an adult or teen who intends to use his or her education to improve civic life in Philadelphia. This year's winners were



Photo by Harvey Finkle

Two days before Thanksgiving, we hosted Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan (left), Senator Arlen Specter (center), Congressman Chaka Fattah, and Mayor Michael Nutter, who saw first-hand Project H.O.M.E.'s housing and community development work. (Also pictured above is St. Elizabeth's resident Earl Banks.) We urged them to continue policies that make a positive impact in neighborhoods like North Philadelphia.

Heather Hillas and Tanisha Clanton. For more on the Award and this year's winners, see our webpage at www.projecthome.org/news/?id=142.

HIGH STANDARDS

Project H.O.M.E.'s Executive Director Sister Mary Scullion has been nominated by Mayor Michael Nutter to the City of Philadelphia's Board of Ethics, which is

commissioned to ensure ethical accountability in all aspects of City government. "We share the mayor's desire to set a gold standard for accountability within the government and among its partners," Sister Mary said, "and hope that the Ethics Board will send the message that resources are highly precious, and what we do with them matters greatly to every Philadelphian, including those most vulnerable."

TRUCKIN'

Andrew Smith is a neighbor and a frequent participant in classes at Project H.O.M.E.'s Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs. Thanks to generous support from Smith & Solomon, Andrew received a scholarship to pursue his life-long dream of earning his commercial driving license (CDL). Smith & Solomon has partnered with us in recent years to provide CDL classes to several of our neighbors and community members, which is a pathway toward meaningful employment. Thanks to John Diab, Smith & Solomon's Chief Operating Officer, who helped make this special scholarship possible.



WARMTH AMID THE CHILL

THROUGH MANY CHILLY DAYS of winter, we have felt the warmth of an outpouring of generosity. During the recent holiday season, literally hundreds of donors, volunteers, and friends contributed to our work and mission, bringing to life the gratefulness and hope we celebrated. Thanks to the following donors who made special gifts in recent months:

- The 1830 Family Foundation
- ACME Markets, Inc.
- Mitch Albom and S A Y Detroit
- Gary and Kathy Anderson
- Avery Foundation
- Balfour Beatty Communities
- Bank of America
- Bank of New York Mellon
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- United Way of Southeastern PA
- Vanguard
- Albert C. Vara
- Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation
- Christina and John Webber
- The William M. King Charitable Foundation
- Dr. and Mrs. Sankey Williams
- Susan and Bill Wilson

- We are so grateful for our friendship with **St. Thomas of Villanova parish**, who donated ten percent of their Sunday Mass collection this cold winter to help Project H.O.M.E. provide assistance to persons living on the streets.
- Project H.O.M.E. would like to give a special thanks to a PHenomenal volunteer, **Jennifer McAleese**. Jen not only revamped our social networking capabilities; she single-handedly organized our Thanksgiving Food Drive and assisted with our December holiday volunteer and gift efforts. Thanks, Jen, for bringing out the joy of the season!
- Just in the few opening weeks, we have had many amazing volunteers who are making our Emergency Women's Respite an inviting and safe place. We are particularly grateful to the leadership and compassion of **Elizabeth Moran**, whose support of our work made the respite possible this winter.

AMAZING VOLUNTEERS BRING OUR MISSION TO LIFE

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to imagine the work of Project H.O.M.E. being done without the tremendous contribution of volunteers. And never is that so evident as during the holiday season. Thanks to over 400 volunteers and donors, we were able to distribute 750 full turkey baskets to members of our community, provide holiday cheer of gifts such as gift cards, winter gear, and books, and create special holiday experiences for the residents and members of our community. On our website, you'll find a more complete list of the amazing people who donated time, in-kind goods, food, and services to make this recent holiday season more joyful for the men, women, and children in our community.

Also, Project H.O.M.E. welcomes Nicki Olivier, our new Volunteer Coordinator. If you want to become part of our remarkable team of volunteers, Nicki will be happy to talk to you – contact her at 215-232-7272, x. 3015 or nickiolivier@projecthome.org

Raising Our Voices



Project H.O.M.E. joined with hundreds of persons on February 3 for a march and rally to protest the State of Pennsylvania's cuts in SSI benefits, which affect many of our residents and thousands of elderly, disabled, and low-income Pennsylvanians. William Sanders, one of our residents, was one of speakers. To raise your voice about the cuts, go to our webpage, www.projecthome.org/advocacy/news.php?id=151.

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PROJECT H.O.M.E.

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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

H.O.M.E.
page café

**Free Library of Philadelphia
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"Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do."

- Pope John XXIII



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.