



Dwelling Place

FEBRUARY 2004

NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME

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; housing and community development; employment training and opportunities; adult and youth education; health care; environmental enhancement; and political advocacy.

RESIDENCES

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

SUPPORT SERVICES/PROGRAMS

Adult Education, Employment & Arts
Community Development Corporation
Education and Advocacy
Honickman Learning Center and Comcast
Technology Labs
Outreach Coordination Center
St. Elizabeth's/Diamond Street Community
Centers and After-school Programs
Volunteer Program

BUSINESSES

Our Daily Threads Thrift Store, 215-232-6322
Back Home Café and Catering, 215-232-6311

ADMINISTRATION

215-232-7272

HOMELESS OUTREACH HOTLINE

215-232-1983

HUMAN RESOURCES HOTLINE

215-232-7219 x5200

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

www.projecthome.org

HOPE IN A HARSH CLIMATE

MOTHER NATURE WAS not gentle this winter. Philadelphia suffered through record-cold temperatures and seemingly endless spells of snow, ice, and sleet.

Winter reminds us of our vulnerabilities, and those who live on our streets are especially vulnerable. For them, the weather can be no less than deadly. The frigid conditions of the past two months forced the City to declare near-record numbers of "Code Blue" days — days when freezing temperatures are potentially life-threatening and police are empowered to remove people from the streets.

YET EVEN IN THE MIDST of this harsh winter, street outreach teams experienced bursts of life. According to Genny O'Donnell, Director of Project H.O.M.E.'s Outreach Coordination Center, which coordinates outreach for the entire City, the hotline (215-232-1984) rings constantly. Concerned citizens call when they see people on the streets. Most often, outreach teams are able to help. In one case, a Kensington resident was concerned about a 70-year-old man who was living in the trunk of a car. The police brought him to the Outreach Center just in time — a few more hours in the cold might have been fatal. The man received medical help and is now healthy and safe in a nursing home. One chronically homeless woman was well known to outreach workers. Her struggles with addiction and mental health had her in and out of the behavioral health system for years — to the point where she had been barred from many services. But one icy night was enough for her to decide to come into Project H.O.M.E.'s Women of Change. Now, after almost a decade of harsh street life, she is doing well in a safe and caring environment, getting the supports she

needs and progressing toward full stability.

THESE DAYS, the U.S. economy is not particularly gentle, either — at least, not to everyone. Tonight in America, nearly 900,000 people may have no certain place to sleep — a number that has increased in recent years.



During the course of this year, 2.5 to 3.5 million people, more than half of whom are children, will experience homelessness. The U.S. Conference of Mayors reported that 84 percent of the cities surveyed in 2003 had

to turn away homeless persons seeking emergency shelter, due to a lack of resources. Requests for shelter increased by an average of 13 percent. Sixty percent of the cities reported that the length of time people remained homeless had increased.

The outlook for economically vulnerable Americans is dim. Affordable housing continues to be scarce around the country. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reported that a record high 375,000 jobless workers lost their unemployment insurance last December, and approximately two million more workers will lose this critical safety net during the first half of 2004.

FORTUNATELY, there is good news. In Philadelphia, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of well-coordinated outreach teams, no one has died of exposure in the past three years. With somewhere around 250 people living on its streets, Philadelphia is doing well compared to other major cities. San Francisco, one of the cities with the most intractable homelessness, has nearly 3,000 to 5,000 people living on the streets; 150 people died on the streets there in 2003.

The reason for this success: we have a successful, proven, cost-effective solution to

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LEARNING CENTER AND TECH LABS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

On January 20, 2004, the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs opened its doors for the participants in Project H.O.M.E.'s K-6 program. The Center spent its pre-opening weeks training staff and getting acclimated, and programs will be phased in at the Center in the coming weeks, preparing for the Grand Opening on April 7. This incredible accomplishment required the collaboration of neighbors, program participants, educational institutions, government, community organizations, funders, and others. Come see our new Center at its April Grand Opening.

PHILADELPHIA HOUSING TRUST FUND GAINING GROUND

Project H.O.M.E. is working with the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations (PACDC) towards the creation of a Philadelphia Housing Trust Fund. The Trust Fund would increase resources for production of new affordable housing; create and preserve affordable housing to meet the needs of lower-income Philadelphians; and leverage additional outside resources for housing production and preservation. For more information, please call Sue Sierra at PACDC at 215-732-5829.

RECLAIMING DEMOCRACY

On May 2, Project H.O.M.E. and the *Election 2003: Vote for Homes!* Coalition will receive a Tribute for Change Award from the Bread and Roses Community Fund for our work to reclaim democracy and contribute to advancing progressive participation in the electoral process. The *Vote for Homes!* Coalition registered, mobilized, and educated thousands of low-income and homeless individuals (see www.projecthome.org/vote for more information). Bread and Roses is a partnership of donors and activists committed to supporting social change in our region. The tribute will be held Sunday, May 2, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the International House of Philadelphia (3701 Chestnut Street). Please join us. See www.breadrosesfund.org or call 215-731-1107 for more information.



LYNNE KORMAN HONICKMAN HONORED AS "VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR" Philadelphia Magazine's Social Datebook 2004 selected Lynne Honickman as its "Volunteer of the Year" for her activism on behalf of the arts and pressing social issues. Presented annually to a member of the community who has demonstrated remarkable dedication and commitment in the pursuit of helping others, the award in part recognizes Lynne's invaluable commitment to Project H.O.M.E. Congratulations, Lynne!

LOOKING BACK: WINTER SHELTER AT MARIAN ANDERSON
Recreation Center Provides First Home for Project H.O.M.E.

BEFORE PROJECT H.O.M.E.'s co-founders Sister Mary Scullion and Joan Dawson McConnon opened the organization's first shelter in 1988, both were involved in street outreach in Philadelphia. Though they had not yet met, both women spent time on the streets talking to the city's homeless, often bringing them food or a blanket and gloves, trying to convince them to come off the streets and into shelter.

Otis West, current Project H.O.M.E. resident, still remembers the first time he met Sister Mary and Joan. "It was hard back then," he says. "The city shelters were terrible. You were always being treated like a criminal, so I wouldn't go in unless I had to. That's what was so nice about Sister Mary and Joan. They gave you things you needed, like food and gloves, and they treated you with respect. They treated you like an important person."

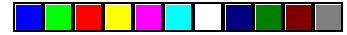
Sharing the same concerns, Sister Mary and Joan joined together to open their first shelter in 1988. Housed in the Marian

Anderson Recreation Center, the Mother Katharine Drexel Residence served the chronically homeless men both women knew from the streets. Talking about what motivated him to leave the streets for the Mother Katharine Drexel Residence, Otis West remembers how determined Sister Mary and Joan were. "Sister Mary wouldn't take no for an answer," he said, laughing. "You could tell they both cared."

Sister Mary and Joan hoped to provide the men with a refuge and a sense of dignity and belonging. And though it was widely believed that most of the men would never leave the streets, all recall the countless miracles that happened during the first winter, as many took important steps in overcoming homelessness. Though Project H.O.M.E. has grown substantially since the winter of 1988-89, it was through the early street outreach and first shelter that Project H.O.M.E. gained its organizational belief in the dignity of all people. ☘



Chico and Norma Jean celebrate Easter at the Mother Katharine Drexel Residence in 1989.



'RIDGE ON THE RISE' MARKS FORMAL START

Ridge Avenue, between 22nd and 29th Streets, began a major transformation in September. In conjunction with the City, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and the Cecil B. Moore/Ridge Avenue Business Association, Project H.O.M.E. sponsored the 'Ridge on the Rise' Transformation Event to kick off its vacant lot stabilization project. Volunteers from organizations including Byron Story Foundation and SELF, Inc. helped business owners clean up and plant shrubbery outside their stores. The event also included weed removal, banner installation, and cleaning and sealing vacant properties along the corridor, and ended with lunch from Malcolm's Restaurant and a visit from Councilman Darrell Clarke. Take the time to come and see as Ridge continues to be "on the rise" this Spring.



For more information about Project H.O.M.E.'s economic development activities or the Cecil B. Moore/Ridge Avenue Business Association, please call Shelli Pennick-Howard, Commercial Corridor Liaison, at (215) 235-3110 ext. 20.

STATE BUDGET CUTS RESTORED!



The Project H.O.M.E. community joined the "Restore the Cuts" Coalition of consumers, service providers, and other advocates for a rally on a rainy November day in Harrisburg. We demanded restorations of budget cuts to vital human services including mental health and drug and alcohol treatment.

We are pleased to report that in the Commonwealth's final FY 2003-04 budget, the majority of funding cuts to human services line items were restored to the same as or close to the prior year's allocation. For specific information about the restorations, see www.pahouse.com.

DOES THE PERSISTENT PRESENCE OF HOMELESSNESS MEAN THE UNITED STATES IS A VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS?

That's the provocative assertion in a new report by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. Failure to provide adequate housing, the reports states, amounts to a violation of international human rights law, which recognizes housing as a basic human right.

The report points to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted with U.S. leadership in 1948, which states: **"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services."**

For a copy of this report, please visit www.nlchp.org.

HOPE IN A HARSH CLIMATE

(continued from page 1)

homelessness – permanent supportive housing. Studies have shown that supportive housing helps people to stay housed, off the streets, and out of shelter. A study of 900 homeless people with mental illness provided with supportive housing found 83.5 percent of participants remained housed a year later, and experienced decreased symptoms of schizophrenia and depression. Having housing and services together decreases tenants' emergency room visits and hospital days by more than 50 percent, increases earned income by 50 percent, and decreases tenants' dependence on entitlements by \$1,448 per tenant each year. And, while other programs boast of a 50 percent sobriety retention rate after a year, 90 percent of people living in supportive housing remain sober.

EVEN IN THE HARSHEST conditions, we see signs of hope. As tough as these past months have been for exhausted outreach teams and staff at entry-level residences, the results are encouraging. And despite the bleak realities about poverty and homelessness in our society, we see successes — successes which can, with enough resources and serious commitment by our cities and our nations, be replicated. We are especially grateful to the City of Philadelphia's Office of Emergency Shelter and Services and the outreach teams from Hall Mercer, Horizon House, the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Project H.O.M.E. and Self, Inc. for their hard work this winter. We grieve that many are still on our streets—while we are emboldened by what we know is possible. It's been a long winter. But spring is coming. And we take hope. ☘

If you see a person on the street who you think needs help, please call the Outreach Hotline at 215-232-1984.



H.O.M.E. BUILDERS

Working Together to Provide Solutions to Homelessness

PHENOMENAL FRIENDS



Name: Joe Horter

Volunteer Since: 2003

Volunteer Position: Pro Bono Attorney

Nature of Activities: Joe Horter is an associate at the Philadelphia office of Pepper Hamilton LLP. Through the Law Firm Pro Bono Challenge, Joe and his colleagues have represented Project H.O.M.E. since April of 2003 in a variety of real estate and contract matters. Joe has worked with many employees at Project H.O.M.E. and has found the work to be a "very positive and rewarding experience." According to Joe, "not only has representing Project H.O.M.E. afforded me the experience of working in the role of general counsel for a small nonprofit business, but it has also given me the opportunity to collaborate with my senior colleagues at the Firm on a variety of legal issues."

Project H.O.M.E.'s Director of Residential Services, Jeannine Lopez, gives the partnership high marks. "Joe is highly responsive and provides excellent legal advice on various contract and business issues that we face in day-to-day operations. The services that Pepper Hamilton provides to Project H.O.M.E. are invaluable to our ongoing operations and we are very grateful for the talent and dedication of the firm." Joe, Pepper Hamilton, and Project H.O.M.E. look forward to growing this relationship in 2004.

Project H.O.M.E. relies on the support of hundreds of individuals and institutions from all walks of life to continue providing programs to homeless and at-risk men, women, and families. We are incredibly grateful: every dollar really makes a difference! This winter and holiday season, we have been overwhelmed by your generosity. Thanks to everyone who donated holiday gifts, winter clothing, and other seasonal items.

The residents and staff of Project H.O.M.E. would like to say a particular thank you to the following donors. Their gifts fill our hearts with hope that we really can transform Philadelphia into a place where all people have a decent place to live and opportunities to reach their full potential.

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| Donna and Jon Boscia | Marie and Patrick O'Connor |
| Brian Abell Memorial Run | Paul E. Kelly Foundation |
| Barbara Capozzi | PepsiCo |
| Citizens Bank | The Philadelphia Contributionship Companies |
| Nancy Crouse | Philadelphia Foundation |
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| Thomas McGowan | W. W. Smith Charitable Trust |
| The McLean Contributionship | Wachovia Foundation |
| Merle Vogt Foundation | Wilt Chamberlain Memorial Fund |
| The Estate of Helen Lyons O'Connell | |

WE MET THE KRESGE CHALLENGE!

In the summer of 2002, the Project H.O.M.E. community was challenged by the Kresge Foundation to match a \$750,000 grant for the development of the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs.

Due to the outstanding generosity of so many individuals, businesses, and philanthropies, **we have met the requirements of our challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation** and received \$750,000 for the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs.

We offer tremendous thanks to the Kresge Foundation and to all of you who helped us reach this enormous goal.

Without you, it would truly not have been possible.

Thank you!

CELEBRATE!

\Pot"latch\", n. 1. A ceremonial feast or lavish community gatherings among certain Native American peoples of the northwest Pacific coast. Feasting, dancing, and public ceremonies accompany it. 2. A Project H.O.M.E. community arts celebration.

**Sunday, March 21st
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
1515 Fairmount Avenue**

Join us for an afternoon of food, music, poetry, art, creativity, and community — Project H.O.M.E. style! We will celebrate the donation of our new piano with music by members of our community — bring your favorite sheet music! Other instruments are welcome.

For more information, please call Jennine Miller at 215-232-7272.

GOD'S GIFT

On the subway I see him on the bench, and smell the stench.
As I shake my head in awe at how's he entrenched...
In a life of surrender to a destructive power,
And I wonder did his fruit turn sour?

Surely he was the apple of somebody's eye...
But there he lays and I question why.

Some days I embrace him...
Feel a solidarity so strong I can taste him
But when I'm stuck on myself I want to erase him.

I feel a sense of intolerance and disgust
So I just — wish he'd disappear
Get away from here.

Hell no I ain't got no change!
Stand up and be a man!
Who gave me a helping hand?

But that's when I've forgotten the blessings on me
That's been bestowed...
How much I've gotten and how much I owed.

So I roll up my sleeves and jump in the muck and mire
Pray for strength when I begin to tire,
Remember its not my fight but HIS
And see this man for the gift that he is...

He's provided an opportunity for me to grow
On a daily basis it's God's love I need to sow.
On my knees I asked to be a servant and under HIS care
In reality this man is an answer to my prayer.

Written by Benjamin Mitchell, former resident of Project H.O.M.E.; performed at Homeless Memorial Day 2003.

Kate's Place:

*Project H.O.M.E.'s New
Affordable Housing
Opportunity In Center City
Philadelphia!*

Opening Fall 2004

Applications are now available for fully furnished rooms with private baths; shared kitchens, on-site laundry facilities, library and computer lab, 24-hour reception and much more.....

Conveniently located in the Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, close to shopping, transportation, and cultural activities.

Income and other restrictions apply.

Call Shaughn Gorman at 215-232-4786 ext. 3010 for more information or pickup an application at 1515 Fairmount Avenue.

Join Project H.O.M.E. and other cosponsoring groups for

AN INTERFAITH SEDER OF FREEDOM THE PALM BRANCHES OF RESISTANCE

Sunday, April 4, 4:00 - 6:30 pm
Church of the Advocate
18th and Diamond Streets



Three thousand years ago, Pharaoh was toppled and the Hebrew slaves were freed; two thousand years ago, a movement led by Jesus marched to Jerusalem at Passover time to protest the Roman Empire's tyranny. On April 4, 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. named militarism, racism, and materialism as the great enemies of freedom in America. Join us this April 4 to mark Palm Sunday, the eve of Passover, and the memory of Dr. King in an interfaith service to reflect on our own struggles for freedom from the Pharaohs of our own day.

For more information, please contact Shalomctr@aol.com or call 215-844-8494.



PROJECT H.O.M.E.
 1515 Fairmount Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA 19130

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PROJECT H.O.M.E. WISH LIST

This winter, our community needs the following items:

- Toiletries: soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and disposable razors
- New games, playing cards, movies, and magazine subscriptions
- Calendars and day planners
- Alarm clocks
- Men's and women's watches
- New gloves, ski caps, socks, and underwear
- New dishes, pots, and pans

For more information, please contact Caitlin Barry, Development Associate, at 215-232-7272 ext. 3045.

THE BACK HOME CAFÉ AND CATERING

*A Delicious Job Initiative
 of Project H.O.M.E.*

15% off your next catering order

Visit www.projecthome.org to see a menu
 or call Nonna-Marie Reikert at 215-232-6311.

(limit one per customer)
 expires 6/30/04

Who is wise? One who learns from all.

*- Rabbi Ben Zoma, in the Mishnah,
 reflecting on the path of wisdom*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 29 - Last day to register to vote before the Primary Election. Call Jennine Miller at 215-232-7272 to get involved in voter registration efforts.

April 4 - Passover Seder of Freedom - see page 5 for more information.

April 7 - Grand Opening of Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs - Come celebrate and tour this new 38,000 square-foot state-of-the-art technology learning center. (1936 North Judson Street, 2:00 pm. For more information or to R.S.V.P., call Caitlin Barry at 215-232-7272)

April 11 - Project H.O.M.E. Easter Mass - Light refreshments will be served. (Backspace, 1515 Fairmount Avenue, 11:00 am)

April 27 - Primary Election Day!

For more information on all events, call 215-232-7272 or visit www.projecthome.org.

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.