



# Dwelling Place

MAY 2003

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 our 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  
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 Cafe 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 NEW WEBSITE AT

[www.projecthome.org](http://www.projecthome.org)

## THE STRENGTH OF OUR GRANDMOTHERS

**THIS MOTHER'S DAY**, we reflected on the women in our families, communities, and world who have given birth to ideas, to change, and/or to children; we doubly celebrate those unique women who find the strength to raise not only their own children but also their children's children.

Nationwide, grandparents are responsible for raising grandchildren in nearly 2.3 percent of all households. In the Diamond Street/St. Elizabeth's neighborhood (census tracts 151 and 152), 357 out of 4,646 households have grandparents as primary caretakers. *Nearly one in 12 households in our neighborhood is one in which grandparents are caring for grandchildren.*

Dorothy R. is over 70 years old and is taking care of four of her grandchildren. She has had primary responsibility for them since 1996. Two sisters, ages 10 and 11, participate in Project H.O.M.E.'s Diamond Street After-School Program. Regina A. has raised her grandson in the Diamond Street neighborhood since he was two years old, and he is now an 11 year-old participant in the Project H.O.M.E. scholars program. Both women have struggled to keep their families together, both have provided strength when there was little to draw on, and both are winning the battle to keep their grandkids on a good path.

### STRUGGLE.

**REGINA'S GRANDSON RASHAD** was staying with his father, after his mother left, until his father was shot and killed seven years ago. Rashad's brothers and sisters are also living with their grandmothers. "I enjoy him and I love him," says Regina, "and I get lots of help from family and friends."

Grandparent caregivers often encounter problems that require them to seek legal authority in order to make decisions on behalf of their grandchildren, including decisions about medical care, school enrollment, public assistance, and supportive services. Regina went to court to win full custody of her grandson, who sees his mother only infrequently. "I teach him to love his mother," Regina says, "I don't want him to

forget her, and I just tell him that she's going through something right now. We talk about his father, and I know he misses him....He's just like my son - little things he used to do when he was a kid," which makes it hard sometimes, like on the anniversary of her son's death last February. "That was a really difficult time. [Rashed] was going through a thing, and I was going through a thing, and we had a hard time this winter."

The experience of parenting a grandchild is bittersweet because, as much



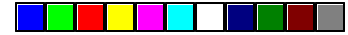
Regina A. and her grandson, Rashad

as grandmothers can be a great source of inspiration and strength to their grandchildren, leading them on a road to happiness, academic excellence, and self-sufficiency, they are too often placed in this position by tragedies of the in-between generation. Dorothy R.'s attitude to raising her grandchildren is that there are certain "things you just have to do and so you just do them." She didn't want them "entering the system" and so "someone had to get them."

### STRENGTH.

"**THEY GIVE YOU A LIFT,**" Dorothy says of the girls, "they give you something to do and a purpose....It's not really hard - of course, they had to adjust to me and I had to adjust to them, but now we depend on each other....They treat me really nice, they're always asking 'grandma, do you want a soda? Or do you need this or that?' The little one's teacher says she's always talking about her grandma - 'I can't stay late, I have to get home to my grandma.'" Like Dorothy, a majority of caregiving grandparents report experiencing a greater purpose for living. To most of the grandparents raising their grandchildren, their sacrifices are more than worth it.

*If you are a caregiving grandparent in need of support, call the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging at 215-765-9040 or search for a support network near you at [www.aarp.org/grandparents/searchsupport/](http://www.aarp.org/grandparents/searchsupport/)*



## LOOKING BACK: THE CROSSING

*In this new column, we will reflect on the last 14 years and share stories from the early days that created the foundation on which Project H.O.M.E. is built.*

**IN THE SUMMER OF 1991**, Project H.O.M.E. opened its second transitional residence, The Crossing in West Philadelphia, for ten men struggling with issues of mental illness, drugs, and alcohol. The men lived in community with several staff members, including Joan Dawson McConnon, Amy Kaltenmark, Bob Simpson, and Tim Dunn. Together they learned to live responsibly in an independent clean and sober community and governed the house through this mission statement:

*We, the residents and staff of The Crossing, have come together to build a community which strives to meet the needs of its members. In order to meet those needs, we are committed to providing a safe environment where the basic rights of a home, food, and clothing are met.*

*Also, many of us struggle daily with the challenge of recovering from addiction or facing mental illness. We are committed to living a sober lifestyle and developing an environment that supports the mental well-being of all members.*

*We are dedicated to living as a family, providing an atmosphere where we are accepted, cared about, and supported in our day-to-day decisions. Finally, we understand the importance of*

*contributing to society at large, from which we have received much and to which we have much to give. Whenever possible, we, as a community and individually, will contribute our talents and skills to society.*



**Residents, staff, and volunteers celebrated move-in weekend with a barbecue in the summer of 1991.**

In 1993, Project H.O.M.E. renovated The Crossing as permanent housing for women with mental illnesses. In time, The Crossing's small size and remote location made it difficult for residents to have the same opportunities as other residences, and Project H.O.M.E. closed the residence on May 16, 2003. Andrea Durning, current Crossing resident and artist, says, "The Crossing and Project H.O.M.E. gave me a sense of security and an opportunity to work through and improve my situation. I was able work through the things that were blocking my confidence." Former Crossing residents will move into Project H.O.M.E.'s In Community residence at 1229 Chestnut Street, where they will enjoy on-site weekly classes, bimonthly community meetings and activities, monthly trips, frequent speakers and community dinners, and where they will have easy access to all Project H.O.M.E. activities and resources.

## CELEBRATING FREEDOM: THE FOUR CHILDREN

**PROJECT H.O.M.E. HOSTED** its first Passover Seder on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Passover is the eight-day celebration of the freedom of Jewish slaves from ancient Egypt. We retold the Passover story by reading the *Haggadah*, excerpted below:

The sages spoke of four children, how they viewed the Seder in different ways and demonstrated different attitudes toward living a just and full life.

*The wise child* asks: How can a society as prosperous as ours allow homelessness and hunger to flourish? What will bring economic justice into our world? What role can I play?

You should encourage the wise child to keep asking such questions. Teach her the lessons of history and appreciate the wonder of her gentle heart and new ideas. Work with her and others to build a better world.

*Special thanks to the following who helped make the Seder a success: Jon Weinrott, Peachtree & Ward Catering, and Congregation Mishkan Shalom; Jerry Arnold and the Social Action Committee at Rodeph Shalom; Irv Ackelsberg; and Steve Gold.*



*The cynical child* asks: What do these questions have to do with me? Hasn't there always been poverty? Why don't those people study hard and work?

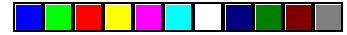
To the cynical child, you must explain that while anyone is enslaved his own freedom is illusory. Help him understand the caring within him and teach him through your example to choose justice.

*The helpless child* asks: Can I really make a difference? Am I not overwhelmed by these problems?

To the helpless child, show signs of hope: the victories we have won and the acts of courage and resistance that point the way to future victories.

*To the child who doesn't know how to ask*, you must tell the story.

*To all of them, who represent all of us*, we reply: we celebrate this Seder to reflect on our history and understand our present. Our celebration includes us all because we are all part of the solution. We speak and act to include those who are not present because we seek their emancipation as well. In the words of Rabbi Heschel: "In a free society, where terrible wrongs exist, some are guilty, all are responsible."



## STATE PRIORITIES, FEDERAL PRIORITIES: BUDGET CUTS AND DEFICITS

**BUDGET DEFICITS AND REVENUE SHORTFALLS** are looming large at every level of government in the coming fiscal year. At the State level the budget deficit next year could be as large as \$2.4 billion. Governor Edward Rendell has presented a budget that is balanced but eliminates funding for some critical programs serving poor people throughout the Commonwealth. Project H.O.M.E. and advocates from across the Commonwealth are protesting the cuts, particularly those which would deny treatment to persons with no insurance.

At the federal level, advocates are concerned about the cost of war and the proposed tax cuts. Low-income housing, in particular, will take several harsh blows if the proposed FY2004 budget is enacted. The proposed budget reduces the num-



**Project H.O.M.E. and hundreds of addictions treatment advocates protest budget cuts.**

ber of housing vouchers available by well over 100,000 and offers diminished resources for Community Development Block Grants, the funding that fuels much of the local affordable housing development. It includes no funding for Shelter Plus Care or the Supportive Housing Program, Permanent Housing Component (which fund most supportive housing nationwide). Elderly housing (Section 202) is reduced and disabled housing (Section 811) is level-funded. Public housing received reduced operating funds, and HOPE VI, created to make physical and management improvements and incorporate services into public housing, is zeroed out.

Local advocates are concerned about a \$104 million hole in the City's budget (because of State cuts), as follows:

- Homeless Services: \$4.5 million cut** - Eliminates almost 900 emergency shelter beds, about one third of the total.
- Drug and Alcohol Programs: \$40.7 million cut** - Eliminates non-hospital residential treatment for 3,149 people and intensive outpatient treatment for 2,796 people.
- Services for abused, neglected, and delinquent children: \$32.7 million cut** - Eliminates after-school programs for 1,000 children and expansion of after-school programs to 12,000 additional children.
- Free Library: \$4.7 million cut**
- Physical Health: \$4.7 million cut**
- Recreation: \$589,840 cut**

*We are asking advocates to call their legislators and let them know that we oppose these cuts to the vital housing and services that make it possible to break the cycle of poverty. To find out who you need to call, visit [www.seventy.org](http://www.seventy.org) or call the Committee of Seventy at 215-557-3600.*

## **NEWS FROM H.O.M.E.**

**PROJECT H.O.M.E. DECLARES "CODE PINK"** - Fifteen members of the Project H.O.M.E. community — including women, children, and men — stood up



for peace and justice on International Women's Day by participating in the March 8<sup>th</sup> Code Pink Rally in Washington, DC. Our signs read "Wisdom Not War," "Kids for Peace," "\$ for Housing, Not War," "War Costs Families," and "Noble are the Peacemakers."

**ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE** - The Project H.O.M.E. Teen Program is kicking off a new newspaper, *The North Philly Metropolis*, to highlight role models from the community and to counteract the

negative images of the inner city portrayed by most media. The first issue, expected in June, will highlight the area businesses that are a part of the Cecil B. Moore/ Ridge Avenue Business Association and other positive aspects of the neighborhood's history and future. To obtain a copy of the newspaper, call Jacqui Lipson at 215-235-3110 x13 or Ben Harris at x28.

**THE LIFE AND VISION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.** - Project H.O.M.E. joined with The Other Side Magazine and Church of the Advocate at a forum on April 6<sup>th</sup> to revisit Dr. King's opposition to the Vietnam War and his understanding of the connections between war, poverty, and racism. The gathering discussed King's broad vision of justice and nonviolence and created a space for dialogue and exploration, allowing his vision to shine into the depth of today's darkness.

**PASSING OF A DEAR FRIEND** - We are saddened to note that our good friend and long-time member of the Project H.O.M.E. community, Claudia Grant Alexander, passed away suddenly on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. During her 12 years as a resident at Project H.O.M.E., she had very special relationships with many staff, residents, volunteers, donors, and friends. In her 54 years, Claudia had learned to speak several languages, lived in Germany, earned a college degree, and mastered the arts of laughing, cooking, and eating. Claudia's personal charisma drew out everyone who knew her and enabled her to make connections between disparate individuals and groups. Her vibrant energy will be deeply missed by us all.





# H.O.M.E. BUILDERS

Working Together to Provide Solutions to Homelessness

## A HEARTFELT MOTHER'S DAY THANKS

*Project H.O.M.E. extends a warm thank you to all those who participated in this year's Mother's Day Appeal. Your wonderful contributions will bring light and joy to families coping with homelessness and poverty. This expression of love will help overcome obstacles and build brighter futures for the entire community.*

*A special thanks to the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, daughters, sisters, spouses, friends, and all those who have inspired such a meaningful tribute. Your love and compassion for your family and loved ones touches the hearts of us all!*

## GOD BLESS YOU, MY MOTHER, SWEET MOTHER

You were there for us through the hurt and pain,  
sweeter than honey, butterscotch, sugar and chocolate  
mixed together,  
worked your way through the pains of bad marriage,  
to be there for your children,  
gave the best advice whenever needed,  
lost your life trying to do what was only right,  
and as I send my love to your resting place,  
God bless you, my mother, sweet mother,  
amen

*Tiffany A. Layer is a participant in Project H.O.M.E.'s Adult Learning Program. She begins GED testing this Spring.*

## WISH LIST

**As the summer season approaches, Project H.O.M.E. is preparing for the hot and humid weather by collecting the following items:**

- Bottled water
- Men's and women's socks
- Undergarments (all sizes)
- Bath towels
- Washcloths
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- SEPTA tokens

*Please remember that Project H.O.M.E. has no resources to pick up donations but greatly appreciates scheduled deliveries at 1515 Fairmount Avenue. To schedule an appointment to drop off your items, please contact Sonia Ftomyn, Marketing Associate/Donor Liaison, at 215-232-7272.*

## DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Project H.O.M.E. would like to express its gratitude and acknowledge the many individuals, foundations, corporations, organizations, and faith communities who provide vital support and funding. Your generosity enables us to provide additional housing, occupational, and educational opportunities for homeless and low-income adults and children. Thank you for graciously offering your gifts to help the people and programs of Project H.O.M.E..

### Individuals

- Mr. & Mrs. John Haas
- Mr. Edward Mannino & Ms. Antoinette O'Connell
- Mr. Charles E. Mather III
- Mr. Harold McCoy & Malcolm's Seafood
- Mr. & Mrs. John Moran
- The Estate of Martin F. O'Hara

### Foundations/Corporations/Community Groups

- Aileen K. & Brian L. Roberts Foundation
- Comcast Cable Communications
- Caroline Alexander Buck Foundation
- Citizens Bank
- FleetBoston Financial Foundation
- The Hamilton Family Foundation
- The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Philadelphia Foundation
- Philadelphia Neighborhood Development Collaborative
- QVC Network, Inc.
- Sisters of St. Francis – Our Lady of Angels Convent
- William Penn Foundation

**Do you participate in Workplace Giving? Remember Project H.O.M.E.'s United Way Donor Choice Number - 09843**

*Please encourage your co-workers and friends to support Project H.O.M.E. For quick and easy ideas e-mail [amandaaronoff@projecthome.org](mailto:amandaaronoff@projecthome.org)*

**CELEBRATE THE  
JOY OF LEARNING!**

The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step—but that step can be difficult. At Project H.O.M.E., we strive to make that first step as easy as possible by offering a variety of educational programs to fit everyone’s needs and interests so adults can reach their professional and personal goals.



**Join us on  
June 5, 2003 for our  
Adult Learning  
Recognition Ceremony!**

**1515 Fairmount Avenue  
3:00-4:30 pm**

We gather to recognize members of our community who have dedicated themselves to improving and transforming their lives through education in our GED, Adult Basic Education, Computer, Life Skills, and Job Readiness Classes. For more information please call Amy Antrim or Walter Sterling at 215-232-7272.

**7TH ANNUAL PROJECT H.O.M.E. SUMMER ART EXHIBIT**

Hosted by Coalition Ingenu and featuring artwork from the art programs and open studios of Project H.O.M.E.



“Diversity” by Mary Crawford

*BACKSPACE & BACK HOME CAFE GALLERIES OF PROJECT H.O.M.E.*  
1515 FAIRMOUNT AVE.

OPENING RECEPTION:  
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

VISIT THE EXHIBIT:  
MAY 19 – JULY 18, 2003

*For more information, contact Robert Bullock at 215-878-1825 or [Cingenu@earthlink.net](mailto:Cingenu@earthlink.net).*

**Word and World**

*Word and World has asked us to invite you to three evening events during its Philadelphia School. Word and World is a Christian faith-based popular institute designed to nourish movements of service, solidarity, justice, peace, and social change by building capacity for analysis and faithful work and witness. The Philadelphia School features activists who are exploring issues of nonviolent social transformation.*

**ROUNDTABLE: PEACEMAKING IN A TIME OF PERPETUAL WAR - JUNE 9, 7:30 PM, CHESTNUTHILL COLLEGE, FOURNIER HALL**

How do we work for nonviolent social transformation in an age of militarism and violence? How can we draw from our spiritual traditions and communities to empower us? Some of the foremost nonviolent activists will engage with us in critical reflection, exploring new paths of bold, creative, and hopeful action in the face of perpetual war.

**COMMUNITY WORSHIP: WINDS OF THE SPIRIT - JUNE 11, 6:30 PM, OLD FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, 4<sup>TH</sup> AND RACE STREETS**

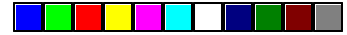
Join us for an ecumenical celebration of prayer, song, and Word that will nourish our faith and our hope. In this Pentecost season, let us lift up God’s Word in the face of violence and injustice, calling on the power of the Spirit to transform. Following worship, we will take the Word to the streets with a nonviolent public witness in Center City addressing issues of war, poverty, and racism.

**SINGING FOR OUR LIVES: JUNE 13, 7:00 PM, CHESTNUTHILL COLLEGE, FOURNIER HALL**

Our work for peace and justice needs hope, joy, and the celebration of beauty if we are to endure for the long haul. Join us for an amazing outpouring of songs, poetry, and visual art. Feed your spirit! Singers featured include: Charlie King, Juan Avila, and Ange Smith. Also includes community poets from the Word and World “village” and the broader community and photographic work by Harvey Finkle, John Grant, and Linda Pannetta.

Events co-sponsored by Brandywine Peace Community, Chestnut Hill College, Church of the Advocate, Congregation of the Mission, Eastern Province, First Methodist United Church of Germantown, House of Grace, The Louisville Institute, The Other Side Magazine, Project H.O.M.E., St. Vincent de Paul Parish, the simple way community, and others.

*For information on all events, call 215-849-3938, contact [lizwatz@wordandworld.org](mailto:lizwatz@wordandworld.org) or visit [www.wordandworld.org](http://www.wordandworld.org).*



**PROJECT H.O.M.E.**

1515 Fairmount Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19130

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Philadelphia, PA  
Permit No. 01219

PLEASE JOIN US...  
as we celebrate the creativity and artwork  
of our own *Project H.O.M.E. community*  
members at our  
7th Annual Project H.O.M.E.  
Summer Art Exhibit  
May 19th - July 18th.  
See inside for details.

**A GREAT PLACE TO WORK  
AND  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

*Join the Project H.O.M.E. team and help  
us continue our tradition of providing  
quality service to our residents and  
community.*



Several exciting new positions  
are currently available.



Please call the job hotline at  
215-382-1622 x5200 or see  
[www.projecthome.org](http://www.projecthome.org)  
for more information.

**Support Our Businesses!**

*These businesses, located at 1515 Fairmount Avenue,  
provide employment and job training for formerly  
homeless men and women.*

**THE BACK HOME CAFÉ AND CATERING**

Monday - Friday • 8 am - 2 pm

***We cater weddings, office parties,  
BBQs, holiday parties and more!***

Check out the on-line catering menu at [www.projecthome.org](http://www.projecthome.org)  
and call Dave Fortune to place an order.

215-232-6311

**OUR DAILY THREADS**

Monday, Tuesday, Friday • 9 am - 3 pm

Thursday, Wednesday • 10 am - 5 pm

***Come on in for a bargain!***

We carry new and next-to-new clothing in  
our "thrift boutique."

215-232-6322

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.