

News FROM HOME



NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME®

Stories of Hope from HOME

In this News from HOME issue we wanted to share some of our resident's stories to remind you of the positivity in the world around you during this difficult time of isolation and loss. The two women featured live in our Kate's Place Residence which is located in the heart of Center City. It is our largest building with 144 fully-furnished, permanent supportive efficiency apartments for adults and it is on the National Historic Registry.

Having a HOME is Essential

Linda C. had all the things you need for stability: a job, a car, and a home. But, like so many, especially in 2020, when she lost her job, she lost everything and was left without a home. A call to a shelter led her to Project HOME's Hub of Hope in Suburban Station. The Hub's medical team was able to help take care of her physical health. Staff at the Hub, including Sister Eileen Sizer, who works in the Living Room (see "The Room of Hope" below for more on the Living Room) focused on Linda's



Photo by Robert Sims

Linda C. loves living at Kate's Place and said that Project HOME saved her life.

goals, health, and relationships.

The step by step support that Project HOME provided Linda with, helped her find a home in one of our residences. That stability also helped Linda feel empowered to use her voice for others when she joined our advocacy team on a trip to Harrisburg to highlight the desperate need for the return of a monthly cash assistance program called General Assistance (GA). She even had a chance to talk to

"Linda believes that Project HOME didn't just provide her with a home, it saved her life."

a state representative and hand him a bar of soap to emphasize the need for GA. She likes where she lives because she's treated with respect and courtesy, and staff have opened their arms and their hearts to her. She believes that Project HOME didn't just provide her with a home, but also saved her life.

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The Room of Hope

By Sister Eileen Sizer, Living Room Coordinator at the Hub of Hope

During 2020, a distraught gentleman was leaving The Living Room for the day and I begged him to hold onto a little hope in his precious heart. He walked away in silence with his head down. Getting to the door he turned and faced me saying, "I'll be back tomorrow for a little more hope."

People often come into The Hub of Hope and ask, "What is the Living Room Program?" Basically, it's a group of men and women with many needs and many gifts. We all value safety and respect, agree to work on goals, and form relationships which have resulted in a community of friends. But perhaps some better descriptions come from the members: "it's a sanctuary," "it's like a refreshing gas station," "it's a place where you move from feeling like America's Most Wanted to being REALLY wanted," "it's an oasis," "a national treasure," "a breath of fresh air," "a tower of refuge," "a family that talks and eats and prays and jokes," and "it's the only place I relax."

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www.projecthome.org

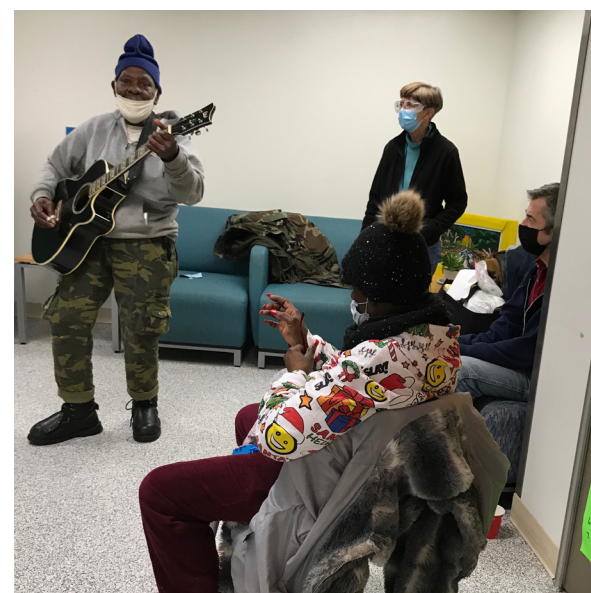


Photo by Eliza Mongeau

Mr. John playing the blues on his guitar, Lucille, for members of the Living Room at the Hub of Hope in Suburban Station.

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Roots and Branches: Reflections from Sister Mary

It's hard to imagine that there was a time without COVID-19. In many ways 2020 defined our realities and heightened the preexisting injustices in our world, especially for our most vulnerable populations.

Many have experienced grief so heartbreaking, it seemed impossible to recover from it. Together we remain inspiringly strong and resilient. We continue to show up with our talents, gifts and skills, even when our tanks are running low. Project HOME would not have been able to accomplish what it has throughout this time without you! You are a treasured blessing and we are so grateful for you!

And as we bid a weary farewell to 2020 and turn optimistic eyes toward 2021, we hope you will join us in remembering the good that came from a hard year and how, together, we faced down these challenges undaunted.

You were there for us with meals, masks, and yes - even financial resources to

provide and develop more affordable housing. You demonstrated an overwhelming outpouring of support and generosity since the beginning of COVID. You supported us even when you were

"Your leadership and compassion have picked us up so many times during this stressful time."

hurting. When you were experiencing loss and navigating all the challenges COVID-19 sent your way, you thought of those experiencing homelessness and deep poverty. Your leadership and compassion have picked us up so many times during this stressful time.

You are the reason that we are hopeful for better things to come, because you showed us it was possible during one of the most challenging years of Project HOME's history. There is a light coming as we reimagine the world in 2021 because of you. Thank you for all you do and who you are.

S. Mary Scullion














Photo by Lisa Suszek

Sister Mary Scullion of Project HOME.

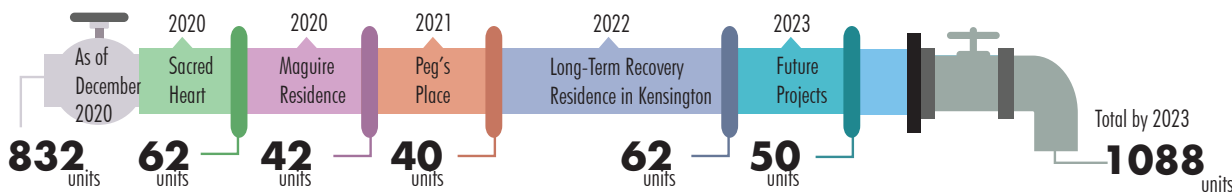


FY 20 ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year 2020

NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME®

HOUSING	 <p>94% retained in housing for at least 1 year</p> <p>1,120 unduplicated individuals housed at Project HOME</p>	OPPORTUNITIES	<p>Opportunities for Employment</p>  <p>1,016 participated in Adult Learning and Workforce Solutions</p>  <p>118 certifications achieved</p>  <p>97 job placements</p>	MEDICAL CARE	 <p>26,021 Total visits</p>  <p>22,054 Medical and Behavioral Visits</p>  <p>3,967 Dental visits</p>  <p>5,112 Total Patients</p>	EDUCATION	<p>The College Access Program</p>  <p>100% High School graduation rate</p>  <p>57 Summer Interns</p>  <p>100% of 2020 High School graduates enrolled in higher education</p>
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AFFORDABLE HOUSING SOLVES HOMELESSNESS | OUR HOUSING PIPELINE



OUTREACH



I Am Project HOME



Since the beginning of COVID-19, Project HOME staff and residents have been doing all they can to stay positive and strong for themselves and each other. We're sharing some of that positivity with you in the hopes that it might lift you up on some of your toughest days.



The fact that we make a difference every day really gives me the oomph to get up and come to work and do what we do for everyone else who is on the frontline.

Jozanne, Accounts



It is powerful to pause and rest is essential!

Jaime, Mission Nurture



Miss Alberta, Resident



I have a feeling like one day somebody's going to wear something I made and it's going to help them," said Miss Alberta at Maguire Residence on how crocheting is one of the things that always keeps her spirits up.



This pandemic has reminded me to be grateful for all the wonderful things that I do have instead of being resentful for the things I thought I was supposed to have by now.

Sam, Residential



Self-care is very important. Even if it's just to buy something that I like to eat. And in order for me to love on others daily, I need to continue to love on me and take care of me to stay grounded.

Eunid, Residential



Luis, Resident

I feel relaxed, and feel good when I'm drawing, like I'm doing something positive with my time," said Maguire Residence's Luis on how being creative with drawing is what has helped him navigate the last year in lockdown.



We try to laugh a lot here. This has been a very difficult year, and humor gets us through it. Today may have been hard and may not have gone as you wanted, but tomorrow is another opportunity to make a change.

Katherine, Residential

Stories of Hope from HOME

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Photo by Robert Sims

Morgen found a place where she belonged when she moved into Project HOME's Kate's Place.

Finding Community in Difficult Times

After her husband passed away, Morgen struggled to find employment. Despite a master's degree from Arcadia University, she was unable to find a job that could accommodate her visual impairment. She spent time in the shelter system and transitional housing before securing an efficiency apartment at Kate's Place.

"For the first time since her husband's death, Morgen had a place where she belonged."

For the first time since her husband's death, Morgen had a place where she belonged. A year after her move, she helped form a Tenant Council and worked with other residents to create a more robust residential services program to meet the residents' needs. Thanks to the leadership of Morgen and others, Kate's Place residents continue to be empowered to strengthen their health and well-being, their community, and their lives. It's a critical step in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Small Ways to Make a Big Difference

Bill Shriver, the Indispensable Volunteer



Project HOME veteran volunteer Bill Shriver registering voters during an election year.

For nearly two decades, Bill has been a fixture of the Project HOME community. It is the emotional connection that tethers him to the organization, a connection he feels is reciprocal. "[Project HOME] is appreciative toward me and they are sincere when they tell me that," he said. "Bill has such a big heart for the community," said Community Education and Engagement Specialist, Heather Barger. "He makes all of us – residents, staff and volunteers – feel at home."

Bill first discovered Project HOME in 2003 while paging through a United Way listing of nonprofit volunteer opportunities. Since then, he has worn many hats, with responsibilities ranging from tutor to cake baker to voter registrant. No job is too big

or too small for our beloved Bill and his kindness and leadership are felt throughout the community at 1515 Fairmount Avenue.

While Bill is naturally a friendly person—his entrance into a room is almost always punctuated by a boisterous "Hey, how ya doin'?"—his empathy comes from a deeper place. Bill struggled with his own mental health issues years ago, and that experience informs his interactions with Project HOME residents. It also instilled him with a passion to help end chronic homelessness, however he can.

"If I can make a difference in one life today, make one resident smile, it's all worthwhile," he said. "I'm led by my heart and conscience. Doesn't matter if you are paid or not. Just somebody has to care."

HOME Happenings

◆ Grateful for You

Thank you for supporting us last year, but especially during Thanksgiving and the holiday season. We are so grateful to you and how you show up for our community! Your generosity of spirit knows no bounds.

◆ Homeless Memorial Day



Every year, on the first official day of winter, hundreds of Philadelphians gather to remember individuals who are without a home, formerly homeless Philadelphians who died, and to call for an end to homelessness.

This year was no different—and yet it was completely different in a way we have come to expect in the COVID era. Folks gathered on Zoom on December 21, rather than in person at

the traditional Thomas Paine Plaza location. The program included a slideshow of art from our community, tributes, speakers, and readings of the names of those we have lost. A recording of the vigil can be found on our YouTube channel: bit.ly/PH_HMD20-YouTube

Our thanks to our colleagues in Advocacy and Community Engagement for ensuring this important event went ahead as planned despite the pandemic.

◆ Project HOMEmade and Di Bruno Bros.



Photo by Jackie Boito

The new Project HOME kiosk at the Di Bruno Bros. Piazza or outdoor market on 9th Street.

Our Social Enterprise department recently teamed up with the folks from Di Brunos Bros. to design a new retail kiosk that they are placing in their stores. Di Brunos Bros. worked closely with our team to create a beautiful experience for shoppers, one

that both tells the story of Project HOME and highlights the incredible work by our residents. The initiative also included an update of our Project HOMEmade brand to explain how your purchase supports our mission.

The kiosks are in Di Bruno Bros. Stores now and highlight our candles, cards, and other resident-made items, as well as new products like tote bags, umbrellas, and more. Keep an eye on our blog for updates.

The kiosk project comes on the heels of an earlier partnership with Di Bruno Bros. to redesign our HOME Warming Gift Boxes, currently available online, which include three 16 oz. Amber Jar Candles and Black Lava Cashews from Di Bruno Bros. Visit our online shop at bit.ly/PH_DBB-GiftBox to make a purchase.

◆ A Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Update

We continue to work on what Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) means and looks like for Project HOME. In the days and months ahead, we will push forward with our work on our action plan (which you can find at projecthome.org/news) and begin our search for a DEI leader to guide us through the challenging work ahead.

Information That Matters to You

Receive news and issue updates that matter to you by subscribing to Project HOME's monthly eNewsletter and Advocacy alerts.

Go to bit.ly/emails_sub_pnews
or contact michaelgainer@projecthome.org

Also, follow us on social media:



[instagram.com/projecthomephl](https://www.instagram.com/projecthomephl)



[facebook.com/projecthome](https://www.facebook.com/projecthome)



twitter.com/projecthome

And don't miss the great stuff on the Project HOME Blog

projecthome.org/news



Be Change. See James.

James is a resident at our recently-opened Maguire Residence. To learn more about James' powerful story visit the link below.



EVERY DOLLAR
DONATED
HELPS BRING SOMEONE
HOME

When you support Project HOME every hard-earned dollar empowers someone in our community to achieve their dreams and have a place to call home.

To make a gift, please visit: projecthome.org/be-change-see-change

Spirit of Generosity

By Robert Smith, Senior Director of Individual Giving



Photo by Jay Gorodetzer

Project HOME staff and volunteers safely distributed nearly 1,000 Thanksgiving meals.

Late in the afternoon of Project HOME's Annual Thanksgiving meal distribution at the Helen Brown Community Center supported by the Young President's Organization (YPO) Philadelphia and YPO Gold Philadelphia, a resident of the St. Elizabeth's neighborhood in North Philadelphia, took careful strides as he pushed his cart north on 23rd Street. He stopped before picking up his Thanksgiving meal, looked up to the entryway that is

adorned with the name of the late Helen Brown – matriarch to the community, and an unstoppable force for good within Project HOME – raised his hand to his surgical mask, and blew a kiss.

The gesture captured everything that we'll forever associate with 2020's holiday season – a moment of tenderness, in the midst of unnatural barriers.

What is truly remarkable is to think that this annual celebration of community, connection, and generosity even happened at all. Not that our partners would have had it any other way.

Thanks to fiercely committed supporters, led by YPO Philadelphia and YPO Gold Philadelphia, the wonderful Do-Gooders, the Justi Group, Jaws Youth Playbook, Lynne and Harold Honickman, Independence Foundation, Maguire Foundation, MANNA, the Haverford School, Waldon Mercy Academy, Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, and countless others, Project HOME staff and volunteers safely distributed nearly 1,000 Thanksgiving meals during a season when it was needed most.

“The Project HOME community's giving spirit did not end with Thanksgiving.”

The Project HOME community's giving spirit did not end with Thanksgiving. In December, we piloted HOME for the Holidays: Sponsor a Family, a seasonal drive to fulfill family wish lists in our residences during the winter holidays.

The initiative began with nearly 50 lists on a Saturday and with it, hopes for a brighter holiday season for children and parents, alike. Within 72-hours, every single family was sponsored, and by December 21st, every gift had been delivered – and then some. While a nor'easter tried to complicate deliveries, it was no match for the warmth and love and dedication of the Project HOME community.

The Room of Hope

(continued from page 1)

Without even knowing it, we the members of the Living Room were preparing for the challenges of 2020 since the Hub opened—just by being who we are. We already practiced taking care of each other and so we faithfully wear our masks. We already practiced respect for another's belongings and space — so we were able to adapt to social distancing. We already built strong ties with our healthcare workers — so we trust their directions and help. And we already practiced reaching out to members both old and new — so our communications and relationships have been thriving.

“The Living Room is a place where you move from feeling like America's Most Wanted to being REALLY wanted.”

And now we are walking with HOPE into the year 2021! Perhaps that's when we can open our doors more widely to have others like you experience us in action and you'll be able to answer for yourselves the question, “What's The Living Room?” And if you're really lucky, you may be entertained by an 84-year-old blues singer who can make his guitar, Lucille, almost dance! And he has quite an accompaniment of background singers and dancers. There is absolutely no shortage of JOY and HOPE in The Living Room!

A Project HOME Advocacy Initiative **TAKE ACTION**



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Ask local leaders to use COVID relief funds to meet the needs of the most vulnerable Philadelphians, and to prevent and end homelessness.

Visit <https://projecthome.org/action> to Take Action and Make Your Voice Heard!

Our Mission

The mission of the Project HOME community is to empower adults, children, and families to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty, to alleviate the underlying causes of poverty, and to enable all of us to attain our fullest potential as individuals and as members of the broader society.

Our Residences

- 1515 and 1523 Fairmount Avenue
- Connelly House, 1212 Ludlow Street
- Francis House of Peace, 810 Arch Street
- Gloria Casarez Residence, 1315 N. 8th Street
- Hope Haven I/II, 2827-28 Diamond Street
- James Widener Ray Homes, 2101 W. Venango Street
- JBJ Soul Homes, 1415 Fairmount Avenue
- Kairos House, 1440 N. Broad Street
- Kate's Place, 1929 Sansom Street
- Maguire Residence, 1920 E. Orleans Street
- Rowan I, 2729-A W. Diamond Street
- Rowan II, 1901 N. Judson Street
- Ruth Williams House, 2415 N. Broad Street
- Sacred Heart Recovery Residence, 1315 Hunting Park Avenue
- St. Columba, 4133 Chestnut Street
- St. Elizabeth's Recovery, 1850 N. Croskey Street
- Women of Change, 2042 Arch Street

Support Services & Programs

- Adult Education, Employment & Arts
- Neighborhood Services
- Advocacy and Public Policy
- Healthcare Services
- Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs
- Hub of Hope
- Outreach Coordination Center
- Personal Recovery Services
- Resident Alumni Program
- Stephen Klein Wellness Center
- Volunteer Program

Businesses

- HOME Spun Boutique, 215-232-6322
- Project HOMEmade, 215-232-7272, ext. 3023
- Project HOME Books, 215-232-7272, ext. 302

Administration

215-232-7272

Homeless Outreach Hotline

215-232-1984

Human Resources Hotline

215-232-7219, ext. 5200



Photo by Project HOME

Many of our frontline staff have already received the COVID-19 vaccine. We're looking forward to a bright new day when we can all gather together again safely. (From L to R: Dr. Ivel Morales at the Hub of Hope, Hub Clinic Manager Tiffany Johnson, and Physician at Stephen Klein Wellness Center Ben Cocchiaro)

www.projecthome.org



Union Bug

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.