



News From...

Homeless Solutions

A HAND UP



Volume 6 Issue 2 May 2005

NOT A HAND OUT

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Bash Breaks Record

Neither rain, sleet nor threat of snow could dampen the spirits of 317 revelers who came out to the 5th Annual Dream Builders' Bash on March 11 to support HSI. The event raised a record-breaking \$120,000 to support our shelter programs.

The evening's honorees were Phil and Mary Van Kirk and Resurrection Parish of Randolph. The Van Kirks were celebrated for over two decades of commitment to HSI's mission. They began volunteering for the then Morris Shelter in 1983 and have remained tireless advocates for the homeless and working poor. Resurrection Parish, headed by Father John Andrew Connell, was honored for its strong volunteer support. The congregation's efforts include cooking dinner for our guests twice per month, holding a monthly collection for shelter essentials such as paper products, and contributing to HSI from their annual Crop Walk for Hunger.

When accepting their awards, both the Van Kirks and Father Connell spoke of the importance of "giving back" to the community and the life-enhancing joy of volunteering.

Also speaking at the Bash were Heather, a resident at our Transitional Housing Program and our "special guests" 10-year-old Danny and his sister Cierra, 6, also from THP. The siblings spoke about the fun they had at camp last summer through the generosity of HSI's donors. Their words inspired the audience to give almost \$30,000 to HSI's Send a Kid to Camp Fund.

Board President Candace Weeks was grateful for the outpouring of support shown for HSI at the Bash. "The generosity of our donors is truly amazing," she said. "Because of you (donors) Homeless Solutions can continue to help our community's most needy. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

In This Issue

Executive Director's Message,
page 2

Kids Create Useful Art with
Jumpstart, *page 2*

HSI Receives 4-Star Rating,
page 2

HSI Welcomes New Board
Member, *page 2*

Headquarters Development
Wins Award, Continues to
Build, *page 3*

Volunteer Spotlight:
Rebecca DiBrienza, *page 3*

Sussex Avenue Students
Raise Funds for Shelter
Families, *page 4*



Father John Andrew Connell of Resurrection Parish is congratulated by Executive Director Betsy Hall and Board President Candace Weeks.



Betsy Hall

Executive Director's Message

Write a Will - Leave a Legacy

We all have personal reasons for charitable giving during our lifetime. Each time we donate our time, talent or treasures, we are making a statement about our beliefs, hopes and dreams. But statistics show that only a few of us have thought about making a gift that will do wonders after we're gone.

While 75% of Americans make outright gifts to charity, only 5% make charitable bequests. The truth is that people can continue to make a difference in the lives that follow with a little planning.

By writing a will, you can ensure that your assets will be used as you direct for your family, friends and the charities that are close to your heart. By naming a charitable beneficiary, your vision for a better future may one day be realized.

Take the time to create or update your will. Then enjoy the peace of mind and satisfaction of knowing that your assets will be used to benefit your heirs and further the causes you believe in.

Kids Create Useful Art with Jumpstart

For the past several years, children in our Transitional Housing Program have learned to draw, paste, measure, cut, sand, paint and hammer as they craft useful and beautiful "objects d'art" in a workshop series called Sheltering Arts.



The workshop is presented by Jumpstart, an arts consulting firm working with at-risk kids throughout New Jersey, and funded by the Arts Council of the Morris Area through a grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Jumpstart teaching artist Karen Titterton works with THP's kids, and sometimes their moms and dads, as they build mosaic mirrors, hand crafted lamps, checkerboards, birdhouses, working mantel clocks and customized picture frames.

According to THP Case Manager Dody Bullerman, both the children and their parents are delighted with the workshops. "These projects allow the kids to use their strength and hand-eye coordination as well as their artistic skills", said Dody. "It also gives them a tremendous sense of accomplishment when they present the finished work to their parents."

HSI Receives 4-Star Rating

Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities has given HSI its highest rating of 4-stars. According to Navigator's Executive Director, Trent Stamp, HSI received such high marks because of our "prudent financial management."

HSI joins such household names as the American Lung Association, the Nature Conservancy, Harvard University and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America as a highly rated nonprofit.

Charity Navigator, a nonprofit organization itself, operates through grants from individuals, foundations and corporations. The service is free and Charity Navigator does not accept donations from the organizations it evaluates. Visit www.charitynavigator.org to learn more.



HSI Welcomes New Board Member



We're happy to welcome Carole Rogers to HSI's Board of Trustees. Carole, a longtime resident of Morristown, joined the Board in March. She is a writer, oral historian and editor who has published six books and numerous articles. In 1983, Carole founded Pro Bono, Inc, Volunteers in Public Relations, and served as its Board President for more than ten years. She has served also on the boards of Volunteers for Morris County, the Delbarton Mothers' Guild, and the Center for Non-Profit Corporations of NJ. Carole is a graduate of the College of New Rochelle and received a Masters degree in Theology from the College of Saint Elizabeth in 2001. She currently serves there as a member of the Presidential Task Force on Mission and Values.

Volunteer Opportunities

Calling all Cooks!

Summer is a great time to come and prepare dinner for our guests any night of the week, or lunch on Saturday or Sunday.

If you can help, please call Tamala Reynolds, Volunteer Coordinator, 973-993-0833.

Headquarters Development Wins Award, Continues to Build

Headquarters Development (HD), the affordable housing development division of HSI, has been honored by the NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) through a grant from the Office of Housing Advocacy. HD is the first and only organization from Morris County to be recognized in this way by DCA.

Susan Bass Levin, DCA's Commissioner, announced the award by saying, "DCA is dedicated to investing in communities across NJ and building neighborhoods where people want to live. By expanding the number of nonprofits that have the capacity to develop affordable housing, we are investing in the future and lives of hardworking residents that need and deserve our help."

Following the success of the Jean Street Apartments, fifteen units of affordable family rentals that opened in June, HD has begun its next project. In February, HSI purchased property on Abbett Avenue in Morristown and HD plans to develop twelve units of permanent rentals for low- and moderate-income households on the site.

HD's Director, Susan Jung, is optimistic that the project will proceed quickly. A development team comprised of F.J. Rawding Architects, Schommer Engineering, and Schenck, Price, Smith & King is working to advance Abbett to the construction phase by the end of 2005.

In March, HD received a grant recommendation for \$247,000 for the first phase of the Abbett development through the Home Investment Partnership Funds administered by the Morris County Division of Community Development. Additional funding will be sought from local, state and federal government, as well as individuals, foundations and corporations.

Affordable housing development through HD is Homeless Solutions' response to the critical lack of housing for working poor people in and around Morris County. The rentals on Abbett Avenue will be available to individuals earning between 30% and 50% of HUD's median income for our region - about \$24,000 - \$39,000 depending on family size.

For more information about Headquarters Development or the Abbett Avenue project, please call Susan Jung or Dan McGuire at 973 695-0340.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Rebecca DiBrienza—In her own words

Roll Up Your Sleeves and Do It Yourself: Starting My Volunteer Program



In July of 2003, I created Time Together Reading, a program for homeless children. It is my "start-from-scratch" project which allows me to be a leader, a worker, and a giver, while doing something that I absolutely love. The idea evolved while I was working at a daycare center. The children loved to be read to. Most of them came from single-parent families, with the mother so focused on meeting the family's basic needs for survival that there was little time for anything else. I was inspired- here was something I could do to help these single parents by fostering their children's personal and intellectual growth.

I designed the once-a-week program to improve the literacy levels, attention spans, and overall self-esteem of the shelter children while bringing smiles to their faces and allowing them to spend quality time with people they could look up to. I began by writing a formal proposal for the Volunteer Coordinator at Homeless Solutions. After obtaining her approval, I searched for a volunteer staff of people my age who love children and wanted to be part of something new and different. They had to be trained to work with this particular population. They needed to be sensitive and respectful of confidentiality.

I write a lesson plan before each Time Together Reading session. I have to find books to read, large-motor activities to get the children interested, and fine-motor crafts that go along with the themes of the books, which must be suitable for ages two to ten. My first lesson plan was a huge success, and by the time I graduate, I will have a two-year curriculum. I am currently mentoring a younger student to take over the program.

Time Together Reading is my gift to my community. Each week, my evening at the shelter makes me so happy. It's hard work, but it's rewarding. The mothers are appreciative, but really, the pleasure is mine. The time I spend with these lively, talkative, and friendly children has raised my awareness of social justice issues, and taught me the importance of compassion and dedication. I have done my best to come through for these children who mean so much to me, and I've had more fun than I ever imagined I would.

HOMELESS SOLUTIONS, INC.
540 West Hanover Ave., Suite 100
Morristown, NJ 07960
Phone: (973) 993-0833
Fax: (973) 984-9234
www.homelessolutions.org

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Homeless Solutions
*offers homeless people shelter
and provides access to services
that lead to independent housing.*

HD Headquarters Development
A revolutionary concept in housing A Division of HSI

Sussex Avenue Students Raise Funds for Shelter Families

17 fifth graders from the Sussex Avenue School in Morristown made a huge impression on Homeless Solutions when they presented us with a check for \$2700 in late March.

Mrs. Debbie Moore taught a literature lesson on homelessness and the children took the lesson out of the classroom. Through "Share If You Care, Inc.", the students decided to raise money and give it to HSI to purchase much needed supplies for the shelter families.

How did they raise all that money? A toy sale. The students solicited toy stores, family and friends and received a tremendous response in both donations and sales.



The excited students, proudly wearing their "Share If You Care" tee shirts, came to the shelter and were given a tour by Volunteer Coordinator Tamala Reynolds, to see just where the money would be used.

Proud Mrs. Moore promises that this will become a tradition!

HSI Wish List

Shower sandals
for adults
Wal-Mart, Shop-Rite
and ACME gift cards
Bath towels
Window fans

If you can donate or help,
please call Tamala Reynolds,
Volunteer Coordinator,
973-993-0833.

Your gift helps

I would like to make the following contribution to provide:

- _____ Milk (1 week) for children in the shelter = \$60
- _____ School supplies for 10 children = \$120
- _____ Computer class for 3 single mothers = \$600
- _____ One month's security deposit for family moving from Transitional Housing Program = \$1,000

I would like to make the following contribution of _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Please clip and mail this
completed form to:

**HOMELESS
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540 West Hanover Ave.,
Suite 100
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(973)993-0833
Fax (973)984-9234
www.homelessolutions.org