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One of a kind event ♦ One of a kind mission ♦ We look forward to a One-of-a-kind crowd!

See yourself ... with no place to call home.

See yourself ... with nowhere to turn.

See yourself ... with a new beginning.

See yourself ... as part of the solution!

At the 13th Annual Art Auction

"Seeing an END to Homelessness"

at the National Constitution Center

May 26, 2005 ♦ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

All of the artists began with the same object – a mirror – and have transformed it into an extraordinary work of art to reflect upon. The artwork is created exclusively for "Seeing an END to Homelessness."

Over Fifty of Philadelphia's Most Talented & Compassionate Artists Create One-of-a-Kind Mirrors

William Boyd	Alex Gery	Brinah Bank Kessler	Molly Mullahy	Cyd Savage
Hope Broker	Ken Getz	Jeff Kilpatrick	Warren Muller	Kari Souders
Suki Che	Whoopi Goldberg	Alan Klawans	Arthur Ostroff	Sheldon Strober
Bob Dix	Nancy Gormley	Ed Letven	Fluffy Palmer	Wayne Urffer
Joey Feldman	Elaine Grech	Sheila Letven	Christian 'Patch'ell	Caresh Walker
Bernadette Foy	Andrew Hart	Diane Lidstone	Bob Perry	Alina Wheeler
Tomasz Fryzel	Bill Hooper	Melissa Lomax	Diane Podolsky	Cally Wheeler
Christina Funston	Mary Beth Hughes	Tom McClosky	Judy Podwill	Ed Wheeler
Lance Funston	Bob Jackson	Donald Meyer	Michael Powell	Susan Wheeler
Sean Gallagher	Peter Javian	Walter Moleski	Vivian Principato	Brian Wilson
Elizabeth George	Cathy Jooste	Meredith Morris	George Rothacker	

RESTAURANTS: Bridget Foy's; Fellini Café; Fergie's Pub; Metropolitan Bakery; Pad Thai Shack; Tequila's and More!



The Philadelphia Committee
To End Homelessness
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Summer, 2005

A PUBLICATION OF THE PHILADELPHIA COMMITTEE TO END HOMELESSNESS

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realities and frustrations which have motivated
us to find the answers for over 20 years

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SafeHome Philadelphia's **HousingBase: Long Overdue Answer**

“Can you help me find housing?” This is the cry of far too many people who call our office daily – in search of housing they can afford. They are in housing crises – likely facing homelessness – with few options.

Over the years, most organizations refer them to emergency shelter, while others may provide a housing list that looks like it's been photocopied at least a thousand times. No distinction is made between the properties that are available and those that have been rented, which only adds to the frustration of their housing search.

It's no secret to anyone that affordable housing in Philadelphia is a much needed resource for low-income individuals and families. While there are many notable organizations working to expand the availability of affordable housing, we decided to identify existing affordable housing opportunities. *We believe that there is capacity within the current affordable housing market to meet much of the demand. However, connecting people to these available rental units requires partnerships that do not currently exist with affordable housing landlords and property managers.*

(continued on page 4)

Annual Auction Extravaganza: **Mirror, Mirror On The Wall . . .**

The Philadelphia Committee to END Homelessness is pleased to announce the 13th Annual Art Auction: “Seeing an End to Homelessness” at the National Constitution Center on Thursday, May 26th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Because we believe that our founding fathers would have recoiled at the notion of persistent homelessness in the 21st century – arguably a time of unparalleled affluence and plenty – we are very excited to host our fundraising event at this symbolic place – this place of new beginnings, pride and optimism.

(continued on page 7)



Philadelphia Committee
To End Homelessness

The Path To Solving Homelessness

Your Support is Needed to Launch *SafeHome Philadelphia*

The Philadelphia Committee to END Homelessness would like to recognize the most crucial part of our organization – what makes all of our crucial work possible – YOU, our supporters. By staying informed through our newsletters and mailings, responding to our calls for support whether it be in-kind donations or funding, and getting involved with street outreach or special events, it is you, our caring, compassionate and informed supporters that make our work possible and affect the lives of so many Philadelphians in need.

The smart, doable and cost-effective approach of *SafeHome Philadelphia* has received a great deal of community and philanthropic support in its early stages, and we look forward to increased public education about the common-sense, evidence and community-based approach that is *SafeHome Philadelphia*.

Our work on *SafeHome Philadelphia* has been supported by a grant from the Elizabeth Jamison O'Brien Fund, the William J. McCahan 3rd Fund in Memory of Thomas C. McCahan and Florence M. McCahan, the Red Lion Exchange Fund and the Christian L. Weber Fund, all of the Philadelphia Foundation.

Along with the Philadelphia Foundation, *SafeHome Philadelphia* has also received support from the Dolfinger McMahon Foundation, Morgan Stanley Foundation, Share Our Strength, the Samuel P. Mandell Foundation, and a philanthropic gift from Phil Collins.

To learn more about *SafeHome Philadelphia*, or make a tax-deductible gift, please visit www.safehomephiladelphia.org.



In this issue (continued from page 1)

Page 9 Rogelio Soto, Day Center Coordinator, catches us up on the continuing needs of people who have no place to turn but 802 North Broad Street

Page 9 As we were going to press, the heavy rains caused extensive damage here at 802 North Broad; the real lesson is about the stress of temporary solutions

Page 10 THANK you and you and you – privately funded and privately supported

City's Plan To End Homelessness: Rhetoric or Real Change?

Recently, a longtime volunteer and supporter said that what he valued about this organization is our **independence through private funding – our ability to think ‘outside the box’ – and our refusal to accept things as they are.** It made me think that perhaps we do not emphasize this point enough – that we do not seek or accept public money so that we can devote our energies and resources to identifying and pursuing the means to realize our name and put **ourselves out of business.**

As the Executive Director for most of the years of this organization's existence, I know it would have been easier to **not** be us. It would have been less awkward and challenging to just ‘go along to get along.’

We are the only homeless-focused organization in Philadelphia which is not dependent on the city, state or federal government for defining how to pursue our mission: ending homelessness. And that independence has the burden of ‘speaking truth to power’ accompanied by careful marshaling of the facts before speaking and constant vigilance and searching for alternatives that will truly end homelessness.

Therefore, it is our responsibility to stand up and shout, “Homelessness is UNACCEPTABLE. Homelessness does not have to be. Don't be comfortable with ‘pretty’ programs or ‘warm and fuzzy’ anecdotes.” Obviously, this doesn't make us popular with the providers in the homeless service system. Our quarrel is not with individuals who work hard and care a lot but with the \$120 million system of ‘managing’ homelessness. We seek broad policy changes and the conversion of that expensive and segregated system.

When the city issued invitations to participate in the federally mandated process to develop a ‘plan to end chronic homelessness,’ we declined for two reasons:

First, we have **already** done the research and developed the strategy to end ALL homelessness – *SafeHome Philadelphia* – and we are hard at work to implement this evidence-based effort which will demonstrate how we **can** end homelessness in Philadelphia. Second, we are realistic about the power of the status quo to resist the kind of change which is so clearly dictated by the empirical evidence on twenty years of homelessness. One of the nation's leading researchers on homelessness,

(continued on page 4)

Bold

Smart

Doable

It's Bold

- ✓ In *Helping America's Homeless*, Martha Burt writes: "We have built a homeless service industry, and it now has its own entrenched interests . . . [and] actually reduces the likelihood that new or creative approaches to ENDING rather than AMELIORATING homelessness will be developed or implemented . . ." (emphasis added)
- ✓ A research report released in 2004 by LaFrance Associates states, "most communities that have launched Housing First programs did so when a **key individual or group of individuals who were committed to ending homelessness identified the limitations of existing services in reaching this goal.**" (emphasis added)
- ✓ The Philadelphia Committee to END Homelessness has **never sought or accepted public money**, which means we have the **freedom to develop solutions that END homelessness rather than manage it.** This freedom and independence makes PCEH unique and able to respond constructively and critically to the current institution of homelessness.

It's Smart

- ✓ Cost Effective: \$4600 to stabilize a family versus \$24,000 to shelter a family for one year
- ✓ Evidence Based: Housing First programs achieve housing stability rates of over 80%
- ✓ Provides permanent and community-based solutions rather than temporary fixes
- ✓ Builds independence and self-sufficiency
- ✓ Utilizes existing resources instead of building/maintaining a separate, costly system

SafeHome Philadelphia is a paradigm shift. It reverses the priorities of the current system by focusing on housing first, prevention when possible, and supporting with services to stabilize.

It's Doable

SafeHome Philadelphia adds capacity to existing community resources to be able to effectively handle housing crises at the neighborhood level.

SafeHome Philadelphia combines:

- ✓ Technology by creating a database of housing that is affordable
- ✓ Good social work provided at the community level through a home-based approach
- ✓ Employment through meaningful connections to jobs, training and income

All of these will help families and individuals get into their own home and stay there!

An END to homelessness strategy that invests money wisely will Open the Door to the Future for all of Philadelphia!

Children, women, men, landlords, tenants, young, old . . . *SafeHome Philadelphia* is for everybody!

For more information, visit www.safehomephiladelphia.org or call 215-232-2300

City's Plan *(continued from page 2)*

Dr. Martha Burt of the Urban Institute wrote:

"We have built a homeless service industry, and it now has its own entrenched interests. . . [and] actually reduces the likelihood that new or creative approaches to ENDING rather than AMELIORATING homelessness will be developed or implemented ..." *Helping America's Homeless, Burt, Aron, Lee & Valente, Urban Institute Press, 2001.*)

The resistance to this change was addressed in Dr. Jim Baumohl's Streets article in June 2003:

"To change methods is to admit that what one did before was less than what one might have done and, in the case of continuum providers, to concede that one's critics were correct. This is a serious source of resistance to change among practitioners of all sorts and we should never be surprised to see it. Moreover, agency administrators, entrepreneurs who sometimes have built large social service enterprises by dint of hard work, dogged advocacy, and endurance of searing conflict, often are not the most skeptical and humble of folks. . . such accomplished survivors rarely suffer challenge gracefully." (*What is Housing First and Why Do Some People Say Such Nasty Things About It?*)

Recently, the city distributed draft copies of their plan. We are sad to report that our expectations appear to have been met: a majority of the eighteen goals are adjustments to the existing system. Some rhetoric flourishes are made to 'ending homelessness' but it is clear that little would change. The plan will promote increased resources for the current system. It mirrors the priority consensus which Roosevelt Darby found so disheartening when he co-chaired Mayor-Elect John Street's Transition Team on Homelessness in 2000 which was dubbed "don't touch our bucks."

Five years ago, Sheila Crowley, the President of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, challenged those of us earning our living in the homeless industry with these 'self checks' on working to END, not just manage homelessness:

- **Everyone who is operating emergency shelter should be planning for the day when they will be shut down.**
- **Everyone who operates transitional shelters should be preparing for the day when they will be converted into permanent housing.**
- **Homeless health centers should have plans to become community health centers.**
- **If the day when their services are no longer needed is not uppermost in the consciousness of homeless service providers and advocates, I urge them to get other work.**

Long Overdue Answer

(continued from page 1)

The HousingBase – the only one of its kind in Philadelphia – will be an online inventory of affordable housing. By reaching out to property owners, most particularly those in the unsubsidized private housing market, and offering free advertising, third-party tenant-landlord mediation as well as support to help ensure tenants remain stable, we've found landlords and property managers to be enthusiastic about listing their properties with the *SafeHome Philadelphia* HousingBase.

SafeHome Philadelphia Housing Advocates will work with each family or individual immediately to develop and implement a plan for either stabilizing them in their present housing or, as rapidly as possible, help them to secure new housing.

The *SafeHome* HousingBase will be more than just an inventory of housing. There are other factors associated with housing stabilization that the HousingBase takes into account. For instance, if a family is in search of new housing or has to relocate, the *SafeHome* HousingBase will be able to provide housing staff with information about key resources in the neighborhood essential to a families' needs. The HousingBase will be able to provide housing staff with information about schools, day care centers, public transportation routes and other needed resources in a specific neighborhood.

The *SafeHome* HousingBase is a timely response to the current dilemma faced by many families and individuals seeking affordable housing. It provides a valuable source of information and immediate intervention designed to rapidly re-house families. In doing so, we will create a paradigm shift in how we help families with a housing crisis.

After the pilot phase, we will be in a position to respond to Philadelphians who ask – "Can you help me find housing?" – with the answer of hope that says: "Yes! Here's the number to *SafeHome Philadelphia*."

By Roosevelt Darby, Jr., Housing Advocate



- **The public will to end homelessness and by extension the affordable housing crisis, will not materialize if the homeless system and advocacy system collude in the institutionalization of homelessness." (Memo to Members, 4/21/00)**

This challenge is the standard by which all end homelessness plans must be measured – real, not rhetorical plans to promote change and put ourselves out of business.

By Phyllis R. Ryan, Executive Director

Housing First is Happening

The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) has called for an end to homelessness by the year 2010. NAEH identifies a Housing First approach as one of the primary strategies to be pursued, and recently contracted with LaFrance Associates to conduct systematic research and develop a training curriculum and materials for organizations that are interested in adopting a Housing First approach. Their report entitled, “Housing First For Families,” describes how a Housing First program should be organized and the necessary components to rapidly move families out of homelessness.

The following summarizes the key components of Housing First. While the types of Housing First programs vary tremendously in the way they are organized and the degree of services they provide, the driving force behind all of the programs is the

“The driving force behind all of the programs is the belief that homeless peoples’ primary need is for permanent housing.”

belief that homeless peoples’ primary need is for permanent housing.” Housing First programs’ “first priority is to stabilize people in the short-term and help them get housed immediately.” All use a similar skeletal structure of

initial crisis intervention, help with a housing search, home-based case management after they are housed, and help with direct financial assistance to defray move-in costs.

The type of crisis intervention that is needed by families depends greatly on their situation when they contact the Housing First program. While the immediate goal is to get families into housing as quickly as possible, it can often take weeks to find a suitable place. In that time, families may need emergency shelter, more intense case management, or financial assistance to keep them off of the streets until permanent housing can be found.

Before a family can be housed, their individual housing needs must be clarified, and a rental resume must be prepared. Many Housing First programs provide tenant education workshops. During the housing search, staff works with not only the families in need of housing, but also the landlords to negotiate lease terms and, if needed,

mediate conflicts between tenants and landlords. Ongoing outreach continues to recruit landlords who are willing to participate in programs with Housing First agencies.

Once a family is placed in permanent housing, most agencies provide some level of case management. Case management allows families to link to other social services, ensures that children are enrolled in and attending school, provides emergency support if needed, and helps accomplish other goals that are set at the beginning of the housing process. Most programs offer voluntary case management services, and while families are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these services, housing is not reliant on case management, treatment participation or enrollment in any other similar program. The function of case management is less about one-on-one services, and more about linking clients with organizations and services that are already available in the community. This allows for a gradual transition of clients from the Housing First program itself, helps them move beyond the need for such direct assistance, and reconnects families with the communities they now live in.

The research found that “across Housing First programs, one of the most significant barriers participants experience is that they can not afford the cost of moving into a new home. Move-in costs can be particularly out of reach for tenants who landlords perceive as high risk.” Because of this, Housing First programs provide a small amount of financial assistance to help tenants with things such as utility bills, moving costs, and rental deposits.

“NAEH recognizes that more and more service providers across the country are identifying the limitations of existing services in effectively ending homelessness and understand the ‘problems inherent at attacking homelessness as a service issue rather than a housing issue.’”

While Housing First programs can be difficult to get off the ground without the backing of the community, the results are phenomenal in getting people housed and keeping them housed. Beyond Shelter, a Housing First program started in Los Angeles, CA, in 1988, found that 88% of families they had placed in permanent housing were still in permanent housing three years

(continued on page 7)

Federal “End Chronic Homelessness” Policies: Unfortunate Consequences

We have been and continue to be deeply concerned about federal policies which prioritize ending “chronic homelessness.” In the 2/25/2005 issue of Memo to Members, National Low Income Housing Coalition President Sheila described one example of how this policy can go seriously awry. Kentucky is creating ‘housing recovery centers’ (temporary housing) as a “chronic homelessness” program to help people with drug and alcohol addictions.

An excerpt of Ms. Crowley’s comments:

“So what’s the problem, you ask? The problem is that most of the funds that will be used to build and operate these centers are housing dollars, and no substance abuse treatment dollars will be spent. One third of Kentucky’s Low Income Housing Tax Credits this year are allocated to Recovery Kentucky, as are \$4 million of the state’s \$30 million CDBG funds. All applicants who want to build and run one of these centers are required to also apply for HOME funds, Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund dollars, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati Affordable Housing Program (AHP) funds, and project-based Section 8 vouchers. The only non-housing dollars that the state is putting up are \$3 million for the Department of Corrections...

“There are so many things wrong with this plan... But the most egregious problem is the diversion of scarce low income housing resources away from the production, preservation, and operation of permanent affordable housing that Kentucky can ill afford to divert...

“How could this happen, you ask? It is a logical consequence of the President’s ‘ending chronic homelessness’ plan that has un-defined homelessness as a housing problem and redefined it as a problem of individual pathology. Rather than house people with housing programs, Kentucky will use housing programs to institutionalize people.” [emphasis added]

We at PCEH have learned that thoughtful and thorough consideration of the chronic homelessness policy choice is discouraged or cavalierly dismissed out of hand by its

cheerleaders. Questions too often have come only from those fearing their own funding will be reduced. It is so important that advocates like Ms. Crowley continue to be unafraid to speak truth to power.



REMEMBERING CUSHING DOLBEARE

Cushing N. Dolbeare – affordable housing activist decades ago here in Philadelphia, founder of the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and legendary affordable housing advocate in the nation’s capital – died on March 17, 2005.

Just days earlier, she spoke before the National Coalition of State Housing Agencies.

In its 3/11/05 Memo to Members, the NLIHC covered her speech:

“Ms. Dolbeare spoke of her continued distress at the amount the government spends on mortgage interest and other homeownership deductions compared to the amount spent to meet housing needs for low and moderate-income households. “If we were willing and able, and we are able, to provide the same level of support that we provide for homeownership to low and moderate income households, we could solve our affordable housing problem in 10 years.”

“Ms. Dolbeare recalled President Roosevelt’s inaugural address, when he referred to one third of the national being ill-clothed, one third being ill-fed and one third ill-housed. Today, Ms. Dolbeare said, only the statement about housing remains true. Based on her analysis, 95 million people, one third of all people in the U.S., have a housing problem.”

In her memory, we rededicate ourselves to ending homelessness and keeping housing crises from becoming homelessness – our goal can be no less.

Annual Auction *(continued from page 1)*

The annual art auction is the key fundraiser for our organization. Without the support and generosity of compassionate artists, corporate event sponsors, and our attendees and supporters, we could not begin to achieve the goals of *SafeHome Philadelphia*, our progressive community-based housing plan. We are the only independent, privately-funded organization dedicated to ENDING, not simply managing, homelessness. We aim to connect families in need with community-based support services and an affordable place to call home – a place for new beginnings, pride and optimism.

We enthusiastically invite you to join Philadelphia's finest artists, Radian Group, and the many business and community leaders already committed to this important event. This year's auction theme, **"Seeing an End to Homelessness,"** is made real through one-of-a-kind mirror



art, created by 75 of Philadelphia's best-known artists and designers. Our auction is very unique because each artist begins with the same object, and then transforms it into a one-of-a-kind masterpiece then auctioned at the event. Add to this the specialties and delicacies contributed by Philadelphia's finest restaurants and wine purveyors, and this will be a festive opportunity for you to see, taste and be part of the end to homelessness.

The Philadelphia arts community has contributed their invaluable time, talents and resources to this event– we hope you will come support their work and ours and join us in "Seeing an END to Homelessness."

For more information about tickets and/or getting involved, please contact Jordan Pascucci, Resource Developer, at 215-232-1821 or email address jpascucci@pceh.org.

Housing First *continued from page 4*

later. Rapid Exit Program, in Hennepin County, MN, reports that 85% of families remained in permanent housing two years after they entered the program. Shelter to Independent Living, a Lancaster, PA, program, finds that, on average, 70 – 80% of the families who move into permanent housing through them retain their housing for at least one year. And the Family Housing Collaborative of Columbus, OH, is able to move families out of shelter within an average of 17 days.

NAEH recognizes that more and more service providers across the country are identifying the limitations of existing

services in effectively ending homelessness and understand the "problems inherent at attacking homelessness as a service issue rather than a housing issue." They are energized by the fact that "the philosophy – what homeless people need most are homes – is compelling and is catching on."

"Housing First For Families: Research to Support the Development of a Housing First for Families Training Curriculum" can be downloaded in its entirety at www.endhomelessness.org.

By Elizabeth Calderola, Outreach Coordinator

Donating to PCEH has just gotten easier!

You can now contribute to our important mission of ending homelessness in Philadelphia online, using PayPal services! Check out our website at www.pceh.org or www.safehomephiladelphia.org and click on the Donation link to make your quick and easy donation by credit card. Your support allows us to continue our important work. Thank you!

From the Street

Sitting on a bench under City Hall, dressed in countless layers, with her black hooded coat pulled up tight against her small body, Rose seems to melt into the darkness of the cold night. She doesn't have much to say this first night, but tears run down her face as the outreach team talks to her about possibly going in to a shelter for the night. She says she will think about it, but when we check in on her again at the end of our outreach route that night she quietly tells us that she has decided to stay where she is.

Different night, same bench, same Rose. More tears tonight, which she wipes away with the scarf she has wrapped around her, but she talks a bit more, and a bit more loudly. She has been in the shelters and she doesn't like them. She has a small income, barely enough to afford a room, but she's looked and there are no rooms available. She's given up. "Can you get me into a place?" she asks, and when we tell her all we can do for her this night is call someone to pick her up and take her to the shelter, she considers it. She promises to come in to the Day Center in the morning, declines a ride to Eliza Shirley, and we leave Rose to try to keep herself warm for another night.

On an equally cold night, William sits in Logan Square, telling us about the different outreach teams he encounters. He casually talks about the college age volunteers who come out to the Parkway with food every Wednesday night, and mentions the recent police sweep of the Square. "Lot of guys had their IDs taken," he says as he shakes his head. William has been outside for a while, and has seen a host of people – both volunteers and those without homes – come and go from the Parkway. He prides himself on knowing how to

live on the street. Tonight, though, he's tired of being outside and he has a question. *What can you do for me*, he wants to know, *me, who's clean, me, who doesn't suffer from a mental illness, me, a single male?* "You gotta' be using to get into any of these places," he tells us, his frustration evident. "It just doesn't make any sense."

Rose and William are not unique in their situations or in their questions. One of the most common refrains heard by our street outreach volunteers is just this: How can I find a place? The question is many times unanswerable. Section 8 waiting lists are frozen. Getting first month's rent and deposit money together is tough. Finding an affordable but livable apartment or room is tougher. These problems are compounded by the simple fact that William and Rose and countless others are not only trying to find a decent apartment, they are also trying to find food, clothing, and a warm place to sleep; they are trying to survive day-to-day out on the streets.

"These problems are compounded by the simple fact that William and Rose and countless others are not only trying to find a decent apartment, they are also trying to find food, clothing, and a warm place to sleep; they are trying to survive day-to-day out on the streets."

William and Rose deserve better than a park bench or a piece of cardboard or a cot in a room of hundreds. They, just like you and I, deserve a roof over their heads, running water, and working electricity. Answering Rose and William's question should not be impossible. The housing is there; it's just hard to find. Through the help of *SafeHome Philadelphia*, Horizon House's New Keys program and other Housing First programs, people in Rose and William's situations are finally finding it and getting the shelter that they deserve – a safe and affordable home to call their own.

By Elizabeth Caldarola, Outreach Coordinator



Holiday Card Campaign Great Success & Hats Off to the Buyers & Artists

On behalf of the men and women in our day center, staff, administration, and our Board of Directors, we of the Philadelphia Committee to End Homelessness extend our deepest gratitude to each organization and every individual who purchased our 2004 Holiday Cards. Your continued support ensures that we continue to support the homeless men and women who need it most.

Very, very special thanks go to the artists – Nancy Barch, Hope Broker, Brinah Bank Kessler and Navjeet Singh -- whose creativity and generosity made the Card Campaign a huge success.

From the Day Center

We at PCEH would like to thank you for your continued support to our organization.

Our first mission in the Day Center is to help our clients get back on their feet. In the process of recovery we help them with daily showers, clean clothing, a place to receive their mail, and daily telephone services. We also offer them peer counseling, clothing for job interviews, tokens to get to referrals for various organizations that can help them with drug problems, housing, continued education and other information appropriate to each individual's situation.

To cover our clients' needs, we need your help again in donating essentials! We are always in need of:

- * socks
- * underwear
- * deodorant
- * soap
- * shampoo
- * toothpaste
- * toothbrushes
- * razors
- * men's clothing in general
- * men's foot wear

In our many years of service we have found many supporters that have allowed us to keep helping our clients. Helping Hands Rescue Mission specifically has been of great support. We would like to thank our supporters for a job very well done.

THANK YOU AGAIN.

By Rogelio Soto, Day Center Coordinator

Time to Balance Rental & Owned Housing Policies

A balanced housing policy means ensuring that both rental housing and homeownership become synonymous with economic security, safe and stable communities, access to quality jobs, schools and services, and wealth building. In other words, they both contribute to achieving the American Dream.

A balanced housing policy means redefining "homeownership" so that all kinds of housing options are considered "homes," and "ownership" is not just about property deeds and mortgage payments, but about having pride in one's home, whether rented or owned.

From "The Crisis in America's Housing: Confronting Myths and Promoting a Balanced Housing Policy," published in January 2005 by the Center for Community Change, the Center for Economic and Policy Research, the Children's Defense Fund, the Community Learning Project, and the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

PCEH Offices Flooded, The Stress of Temporary Solutions for PCEH and for Philadelphians in Housing Crises

The weekend of April 2, 2005 was horrible for families living in the flooded communities in the greater Philadelphia area. Their loss of home and possessions makes our loss of offices through the storm seem insignificant. Our damage was primarily structural, and so it will be a good while before we will be back in our own offices. We have begun the time-consuming process of drying out, repairing and rebuilding.

The immediate lesson I have learned is how frustrating, discombobulating and frankly, depressing temporary arrangements are. It is really hard to try to wade forward, sort out, think things through or even simply find things and then try to work.

That experience has made me think about what is it we ask of individuals and families recently uprooted or already on a long trail of makeshift housing for themselves and their children.

I think that we often ask them to be razor sharp thinkers, analysts and planners under far more stressful situations and conditions. I now wonder if this is why we took the mis-steps of 'medicalizing' housing crises into a 'condition' called 'chronic homelessness' or just plain 'homelessness' and ending up 'prescribing' services to make people 'housing ready' rather than focusing on 'housing' them first so they can get their bearings and then help – services – to build housing stability and skills to deal with the next housing-threatening crisis.

We already have 20 years of expensive – cash and human wise – well intentioned, temporary/transitional solutions to homelessness in Philadelphia. *SafeHome Philadelphia* is the breath of fresh air – the first major shift away from that practice to put housing where it belongs – first.

However temporarily difficult it is in our offices, this experience has increased my determination to swiftly get back on track to launch *SafeHome Philadelphia* in 2005!

By Phyllis R. Ryan, Executive Director

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Marie Reeder
Janet Reedy
Frank and Roberta Reeves
Eliz Reinas
G. Wayne and Kay Renneisen
Chris and Jennifer Reynolds
Tyler Ridgeway
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