



Project H.O.M.E.'s

# Dwelling Place

MARCH 2005

NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME

## PROJECT H.O.M.E.

(Housing, Opportunities for Employment, Medical Care, Education)

empowers people to break the cycle of homelessness, address the structural causes of poverty, and attain their fullest potential as members of society. Our work is rooted in our conviction of the dignity of each person and our belief that all are entitled to decent, affordable housing and quality education, employment, and health care. We achieve this through street outreach; supportive housing; comprehensive services; community development; employment training and opportunities; adult and youth education; health care; environmental enhancement; and political advocacy.

### RESIDENCES

1515 and 1523 Fairmount Avenue  
Diamond Street Residences, 2826-29 Diamond St.  
In Community, 1229 Chestnut St.  
Kairos House, 1440 N. Broad St.  
Kate's Place, 1929 Sansom St.  
Rowan I, 2729-A W. Diamond St.  
Rowan II, 1901 N. Judson St.  
St. Columba, 4133 Chestnut St.  
St. Elizabeth's Recovery, 1850 N. Crowskey St.  
Women of Change, 21st & Arch Sts.

### SUPPORT SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Adult Education, Employment & Arts  
Community Development Corporation  
Education and Advocacy  
Honickman Learning Center and  
Comcast Technology Labs  
Outreach Coordination Center  
Volunteer Program

### BUSINESSES

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

### ADMINISTRATION

215-232-7272

### HOMELESS OUTREACH HOTLINE

215-232-1984

### HUMAN RESOURCES HOTLINE

215-232-7219 ext. 5200

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

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

## NEW HEIGHTS IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**THE GRAND LADY** has undergone an extreme makeover, and she is looking quite spiffy these days.

That elderly dame is named Kate. Or more specifically, Kate's Place, formerly the Lucy Eaton Smith residence, and before that the Warburton Hotel.

Kate's Place is an historic, eleven-story architectural jewel in Center City Philadelphia, just off Rittenhouse Square. Kate's Place is also the newest residence of Project H.O.M.E. Opened last fall after extensive renovations, it offers affordable housing for 144 low- and moderate-income women and men. And it helps to make at least a dent in Philadelphia's growing affordable housing crisis.

A few years ago, a development of such scale would probably not have been on our drawing board. But in 1999, Project H.O.M.E. was approached by the Dominican Sisters, who owned and operated the building, then known as the Lucy Eaton Smith Residence. Since 1952, "the Lucy" provided a home for single women, mostly low-income or in transition. Due to rising costs, the Dominicans were no longer able to operate the Lucy, but hoped the building could continue to serve persons in need rather than be sold to become expensive condos. After much discernment, Project H.O.M.E. took on the daunting task of rehabbing the building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

On October 27, 2004, the doors of the newly named Kate's Place Apartments

opened. Most residents pay \$475 or \$550 a month for a modest living space. Single-room occupancy (SRO) apartments are newly furnished with a bed, desk, dresser, microwave, small refrigerator, and full-size bathroom. The building is handicapped-accessible, and several units are specially designed for persons with disabilities. There are shared kitchens on each floor, as well as an on-site, internet-wired computer lab/library, a meditation room, a large community room, and a

television room. A staff Resource Coordinator provides residents with referrals and facilitates access to needed services. Many residents are already taking advantage of Project H.O.M.E.'s myriad of programs at other sites — adult learning, employment counseling, and computer training.

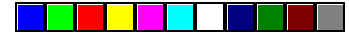
**THE BOOM IN PHILADELPHIA'S** downtown real estate values is generally seen as healthy for the city. The downside, though, is the squeezing out of available affordable housing for those of lesser means. In fact, Philadelphia's affordable housing crisis is worsening. Over the last seven years, the production of affordable housing has fallen to an all-time low, leaving low-income Philadelphians with a shortage of approximately 60,000 affordable homes. At the same time,

*(continued on page 2)*



### THERE'S STILL ROOM AT KATE'S PLACE!

Apartments are still available for individuals whose annual incomes are \$15,000-\$28,920. Check us out at [www.katesplace.org](http://www.katesplace.org) and call for an appointment, 215-568-0304 ext. 8003.



## A NICE PLACE TO COME HOME TO

By Duwan McClain

EVER SINCE I WAS YOUNG, I've wanted to live in Center City. I loved the traffic, the businesses, and the spirit of the neighborhoods that helped me feel connected. Originally, I got information about Kate's Place for some people I knew who needed a place to live. Then last fall I needed housing and I was able to move into Kate's Place. It's uncanny (though I know there are no coincidences when God plans stuff), but the location of Kate's Place is within a



*"Whenever a person comes in contact with another, a domino effect is created, and our lives are changed forever."*

a mile of my school and work! I get to walk everywhere, which gives me a sense of freedom. I improve my health by getting fresh air and exercise and get the benefits of living in this part of town.

But the benefits of Kate's Place are not just its great location. The round-the-clock staff helps me feel safe, and I am never alone. Our on-site services help us to manage our time without leaving our home. The staff is friendly and helpful; they know our names and greet each one of us upon entry. That makes this a nice place to come home to.

There's always a buzz among the residents about the goings on: a great show on cable in the community room, an in-house knitting circle, or the stylish library that allows us to take space and time from our apartments. The meditation room is great just to be able to have a place to spiritually and mentally "anchor" ourselves. Even when I'm not able to take advantage of activities like fitness, education, cooking or financial classes, I vote in favor of them for other residents, which helps me feel part of the community.

I am grateful to Project H.O.M.E. for helping to improve my quality of life through its commitment to providing safe and affordable housing while treating everyone with dignity. I believe that whenever a person comes in contact with another, a domino effect is created, and our lives and the lives of the people we come in contact with are changed forever.

## NEW HEIGHTS

(continued from page 1)

despite seemingly positive numbers about the effects of welfare reform nationally, the number of Philadelphia residences on public assistance is growing. Many years ago, Center City had several affordable SRO hotels and residences – today, Kate's Place is one of the few buildings earmarked solely for affordable housing in Center City

In addition to easing the city's affordable housing crisis, one remarkable feature of Kate's Place is its location. By providing quality affordable housing in the middle of a largely wealthy section of Center City, Kate's Place is enhancing a healthy diversity in the broader community.

The impressive property at 1299 Sansom Street has its own remarkable history. It was built in 1926 as the Warburton House and operated by Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania, which provided a range of social services for women, indigent families, and persons with disabilities. Many early residents were professional women who benefited from the social advances of the suffrage movement. In 1952 and for the next five decades, the Dominicans operated the building as a home for women in need. According to staff Resource Coordinator Sister Mary Ellen Bennett, who is a member of the Dominican community that worked with Project H.O.M.E. on the transition, "Kate's Place Apartments is committed to carry on the mission of Emergency Aid and the Dominican Sisters: to provide safe and affordable housing in Center City, welcoming all in a spirit of joy, respect, and hospitality."

IT'S BUSTLING ON A TYPICAL WEEKDAY morning in the elegant foyer of Kate's Place. Several residents gather, soaking in the ambiance of the high ceilings, cozy lounge chairs, and blooming plants. Some exchange affectionate greetings with receptionist Roberta Williams. Others chat for awhile. Some are heading out for their morning coffee. Brian is en route to his job driving a horse carriage. A couple of others are on their way to daily mass at St. Patrick's Church. Others will sit in the comfortable lounge chairs before going about their daily tasks. "It's like one big, happy family here," says Roberta.

There's a lot of life in the grand old lady on the corner of 20<sup>th</sup> and Sansom. And she's a sign of new life for our city.

THE NAME "KATE'S PLACE" has a multitude of meanings for us at Project H.O.M.E.. One of the Kates honored by the name was Catherine McAuley, an Irish Catholic nun whose order, the Sisters of Mercy, is committed to solidarity to persons who are economically poor, especially women and children. The financial support of the Sisters of Mercy was a huge part of making Kate's Place possible. Another Kate was St. Catherine de' Ricci, a 15th-century Italian mystic, the patron saint of the Dominican order founded by Lucy Eaton Smith in 1880. The Dominicans, inspired by both St. Catherine and Lucy Eaton Smith, were determined to ensure that the building would continue to provide decent and affordable housing for women. "Kate's Place" was also the name of an emergency winter shelter for men started by Sister Mary Scullion and Sister Clare Schrant way back in 1981! Other Kates — and other remarkable women and men — have been part of this rich tradition of safe, decent housing for people in need.



*Project H.O.M.E. is in the final stages of the capital campaign for Kate's Place. If you are interested in a naming opportunity or in making a gift, please contact Amanda Aronoff, Development Director, at 215-232-7272 ext. 3044 or amandaaronoff@projecthome.org.*

**REACHING ACROSS WORLDS**

Our motto at Project H.O.M.E. is that “none of us are home until all of us are home.” Recently, we have taken that sense of solidarity across the globe. In the wake of the recent tsunami disaster, we are partnering with a community of Medical Mission Sisters in South India to assist them in both short-term relief and long-term development efforts. The Indian Sisters, whose North American headquarters is in Philadelphia, are setting up medical camps, providing pastoral care to families, and working on long-term community rebuilding through education and employment. Our residences, programs, staff, and supporters have all been raising funds, which we are sending to the Sisters, along with sharing our stories and hopes with them. While we cannot fathom the depths of loss and destruction these families have faced, we sense a connection between our work and theirs. *For information about the tsunami relief activities, call Will O'Brien, Special Projects Coordinator, at 215-232-7272 ext. 3047.*



program designed to help low- and moderate-income individuals and families apply for public benefits and tax credits. The innovative program was designed to connect people to resources that can lift them out of poverty. Millions of Americans are not aware that they are eligible for such benefits as the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child & Dependent Tax Care Credit, Food Stamps, Child Health Insurance Plan, heating assistance, Medicaid, and others. We are hopeful that The Benefit Bank will be another vital tool in community revitalization efforts. *Call Anna Inazu for information at 215-235-2900.*

**BANKING ON THE FUTURE**

Project H.O.M.E. is excited to be one of the first programs to launch The Benefit Bank, an internet-based, counselor-assisted

**KUDOS**

Project H.O.M.E. will be honored on March 30 at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Dinner at the Kennedy Cen-

ter in Washington, D.C.. The NAEH, one of the nation’s leading advocacy organizations on issues of homelessness, annually honors one non-profit organization for its work to end homelessness. We are thrilled by this award, and hope it inspires greater hope that homelessness can be ended in our country. *For more information, call the Alliance at 202-638-1526.*

**FOR THE LOVE OF TRANSIT**

On Valentine’s Day, Project H.O.M.E. rallied with the Pennsylvania Transit Coalition, a statewide coalition of individuals and groups that seek to improve public transit in Pennsylvania. Our immediate goal is to secure the dedicated, predictable funding from the state that public transit needs to resolve the current fiscal crisis and avoid major fare hikes or service cuts. *To lend your voice to this campaign, visit the Transit Coalition at [www.patransit.org](http://www.patransit.org) or call 267-295-2040.*



**LOOKING BACK: FREEING 1515**

**TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH**, the Project H.O.M.E. community experienced one of the more dramatic episodes in our history.

It was spring in Philadelphia. The thaw in the weather was not translating into a thaw in harsh attitudes against homeless and mentally ill persons. For more than three years, our efforts to develop our first permanent housing facility at 1515 Fairmount Avenue had been blocked by a combination of civic groups and political interests. We had struggled in the courtrooms, marched in the streets, and debated in the arenas of public opinion, but this particular NIMBY (“Not In My Backyard”) fight was especially fierce.

Federal courts had ordered Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell to use his authority to enforce fair housing laws and permit the development of 1515, but political forces were still resisting. We recognized that this struggle was about more than a single building. Evoking the religious traditions of Passover and Holy Week, we declared a “Week of Liberation.” For five days, with hundreds of supporters, we vigiled in front of Mayor Rendell’s office in City Hall, praying, singing, and expressing our concerns. Dozens of supporters undertook a hunger fast throughout the week. Our message was that the struggle to “Free 1515” was about basic human and civil rights.

On Holy Thursday of that week, 23 persons, all wearing the names of homeless persons who have died on our streets, engaged in nonviolent civil disobedience. “We decided that the business of city government could not continue when homeless persons were living and dying on our streets while permanent housing was being blocked,” remembers Project H.O.M.E.’s Will O’Brien, who helped organize the campaign. “For all of us, it was a profound experience of nonviolence and acting on truth.” The Week of Liberation culminated with an ecumenical prayer service and rally outside City Hall on Good Friday.

Three months later, following a second federal court ruling, Mayor Rendell finally intervened to end the dispute. 1515 was free, and would soon be both a home for 48 formerly homeless men and women and a vital community center. It set a legal precedent and would also become a beacon in the struggle for fair housing and civil rights in this country.



*Photo by Harvey Finkle*

## A TAPESTRY OF FREEDOM

WHILE MOST OF US were trying to catch our breath from the hectic holiday season, Julia Galetti did not slow down. Julia, who lives at Project H.O.M.E.'s 1515 Fairmount Avenue residence, was busy researching, planning, and creating a beautiful quilt for Black History Month. She finally rested at its unveiling on February 4, to accolades and a thrilled audience.

Julia based her quilt on the Underground Railroad and different symbols that were used, often on quilts, to provide directions and warnings to weary slaves escaping to freedom. She faced challenges in the making of the quilt, as she only had access to certain fabrics and equipment. There is a strength of message in the quilt that reflects the strength of Julia as a person. She never let roadblocks interfere with her making the quilt and meeting the February deadline. When she was unable to sew the approximately six-by-ten-foot quilt due to lack of thread and needles, she improvised and glued it together. Looking at the quilt though, one would never know. "Her craftsmanship is remarkable given the lack of resources," said Mike Mangos, a volunteer working in occupational services. This is not the first time Julia has created works of art on display at Project H.O.M.E.. She is also noted for her decorated jars that are currently being given away for a small and voluntary donation. Julia's generosity flows as deeply as her creativity.



Julia's quilt is currently on display at Project H.O.M.E.'s occupational services computer lab at 1523 Fairmount Avenue.

*Julia's quilt is currently on display at Project H.O.M.E.'s occupational services computer lab at 1523 Fairmount Avenue.*

## REMEMBER ME

By Jeff Simpers

*Jeff Simpers was a resident of 1515 Fairmount Avenue who passed away in January. He brought gifts of poetry, music, and art to our community, including the following poem, written for former 1515 resident Robert Henry. We join with Jeff's family in celebrating his life and mourning his passing.*



*Photo by Harvey Finkle*

To the living, I am gone.  
 To the sorrowful, I will never return.  
 To the angry, I was cheated.  
 But to the happy, I am at peace.  
 And to the faithful, I have never left.  
 I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.  
 So, as long as you stand upon a shore,  
 gazing at a beautiful sea —  
 remember me.  
 As you look in awe at a mighty forest  
 and its grand majesty —  
 remember me.  
 As you look upon a flower  
 and admire its simplicity —  
 remember me.  
 Remember me in your heart, your thoughts,  
 and the memories of the times we loved,  
 the times we cried, the times we fought,  
 and the times we laughed.  
 For if you always think of me,  
 I will never be gone.



*Winter Scene by Angelina DiDonato, Women of Hope resident*

## First Annual Project H.O.M.E. Winter Art Show

On Display Now Thru April 8!

Throughout the Back Space Gallery  
 And Back Home Café at Project H.O.M.E.  
 1515 Fairmount Avenue

A collection of recent artwork from the Art Programs at Project H.O.M.E.  
 For information, contact Robert Bullock at 215-878-1825.

**NEXT STEPS...**

ON JANUARY 31, dozens of Project H.O.M.E. community members were among the packed crowd in Philadelphia City Hall when the Street Administration officially announced its support for the Philadelphia Housing Trust Fund. As we've reported in past issues of *Dwelling Place*, the Trust Fund is a vital tool in addressing the city's affordable housing crisis. It will generate approximately \$14 million annually for production and rehabilitation of thousands of units of affordable and accessible housing. Philadelphia City Councilwomen Jannie Blackwell and Blondell Reynolds Brown have introduced legislation (Bill #050059) to create the Trust Fund. This is a great time to call or write your Councilmembers and ask them to support the Trust Fund. Let's do our part to make the Trust Fund a reality!



For information on how to contact Councilmembers, check out our website, [www.projecthome.org/advocacy/overview.html](http://www.projecthome.org/advocacy/overview.html), or call Laura Weinbaum, Director of Public Policy, at 215-232-7272, ext. 3037.

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**ENDING GLOBAL POVERTY -- IT'S POSSIBLE**

PROJECT H.O.M.E. IS PART of a nationwide movement of people crazy enough to think we can end homelessness in the United States. But some people have even bolder goals.

This past January, a blue-ribbon team of leading development experts issued a report outlining cost-effective measures that could cut extreme poverty throughout the world in half by 2015 and eliminate it all together by 2025. The report represents a concrete plan to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which were adopted by the United Nations in 2002. The cornerstone of the plan is for developed nations to make good on their promises to raise development aid toward 0.7 percent of their gross national product. (The United States government currently gives 0.15 percent of GNP; the Bush Administration has proposed increasing that amount to 0.18 percent.) Other elements of the plan include expanding trade and private capital investment, undertaking large-scale preventative health and education initiatives, improving national infrastructures, improving governments, and dramatically increasing the percentage of aid dollars that directly benefit recipients. "Our generation for the first time in human history really could see to it that extreme poverty on the planet is ended, not just by half but ended by the year 2025," said one economist. "The incredible outpouring of aid to victims of the recent tsunami demonstrates what can happen when wealthier nations see needs and respond."

**MORE INFORMED, MORE EMPOWERED TO ACT**

- How will President George W. Bush's proposed budget affect homeless and poor persons? For one analysis (including state-by-state data), see the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [www.cbpp.org/2-7-05sfp.htm](http://www.cbpp.org/2-7-05sfp.htm). Also, the budget documents themselves can be viewed at [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2006/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2006/).
- *Helping America's Homeless: Emergency Shelter or Affordable Housing?* By Martha Burt, Laudan Y. Aron, and Edgar Lee, was published by The Urban Institute Press in 2001. To order a copy, call 1-877-UIPress. A short article by Martha Burt, "What Will It Take To End Homelessness?" has been helpful to us at Project H.O.M.E. in our visioning and planning. It's available on the web at [www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/end\\_homelessness.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/end_homelessness.pdf).
- *Just Neighbors* is a stimulating, interactive, and experiential curriculum designed for families, faith communities, and other groups to help them understand the realities of poverty and how they can make a positive difference. It is produced by Family Promise, a nationwide program that mobilizes communities to support homeless families and help end homelessness. For information on the program and how you can use it, contact Rachel Falkove at the Northwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network at 215-247-4663 or [rachel@philashelter.org](mailto:rachel@philashelter.org).



Project H.O.M.E. invites you to:

**WHAT WOULD MOSES – OR JESUS – OR MUHAMMAD – DO ABOUT THE FEDERAL BUDGET?**

**An Evening of Reflection on Spiritual Values and Politics in U.S. Society**

**Tuesday, March 29 - 7:00 p.m.  
Project H.O.M.E. - 1515 Fairmount Avenue**

The role of religion in politics is an increasingly polarizing issue, as demonstrated in last year's election. Many Americans believe that religious and moral values, instead of being so divisive, can play a healthier, broader, and even more unifying role in our public and political discourse. Join us as we explore these crucial issues:

- ◆ Do "moral and religious values" belong to one side of the political spectrum and not the other?
- ◆ How can we create common ground among religious persons who differ politically but care about similar issues, such as poverty?
- ◆ Can we use religious language in a new way to bring people together about the vision of justice in our religious traditions?

*All points of view are welcome.  
Everyone is invited.*

For more information and to RSVP, contact Will O'Brien, Special Projects Coordinator, at 215-232-7272, ext. 3047 or [willobrien@projecthome.org](mailto:willobrien@projecthome.org).



# H.O.M.E. BUILDERS - Working Together

Page 6 - Dwelling Place

## PHENOMENAL FRIENDS



**Who:** Darragh Muldoon

**Volunteer since:** Summer 2000

**Volunteer position:** Tuesday cook and companion for residents on the fourth floor of 1515.

**Nature of activities:** Darragh first came to Project H.O.M.E. in 2000 and volunteered with our after-school program, but she soon found that she better enjoyed teaching the men of 1515 about nutrition and cooking. Thus began a relationship which has been known to set off the smoke detectors and warm the hearts of Darragh and her family. Darragh continues those relationships by bringing dinner and spending time with the residents every Tuesday. In the summers, she returns their hospitality by opening her home to them for barbecues. At first, Darragh says, she was just teaching guys how to cook, but she keeps coming back because they are part of her family.

And like any family, they have formed some traditions over the years. Darragh brings a tree for the holidays, and spends every Thanksgiving with the residents. They mark the occasion with dinner and sparkling cider in champagne glasses. When people tell her how good it is that she volunteers, she just laughs because the guys are her friends, and she enjoys spending time with them.

## SEASON'S TREATINGS

WHEN WE SENT OUT our last newsletter, we had barely recovered from the hectic holiday season. Now, as spring starts to peek out, we take this opportunity to publicly thank the many marvelous donors and volunteers who brightened the Thanksgiving and Winter holidays through an outpouring of gifts, meals, and sharing time and talent with the Project H.O.M.E. community. Even as several months have passed, we still live in the richness of your generosity and compassion.

**Thanksgiving:** District Attorney Lynne Abraham, Arch Street United Methodist Church, The Binswanger Family, Karima Bouchenafa, Bright Horizons Child Care and Learning Center, Patrick Burns, Canada Dry Delaware Valley Bottling Company, Catering by Design, The School of Culinary Arts, Patricia DiPietrae, Seth Dorrell, Amy Drakeman, Bonnie Eisner, Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, Fresh Grocer, GE Capital Corporation, George Washington High School, Giles and Ransome, Lois and Dave Handy, Harold and Lynne Honickman, Independence Blue Cross, Jane Jacobs, Tiffany Labon, Lower Merion High School, Bailey Martin, Brenda May, Mercy Vocational High School, The O'Brien Family, The Philadelphia Naval Business Center, Piper Rudnick LLP, Jayne Ptolemy, Rosemont School for the Holy Child, Debbie Smith, Saint Bede's School, Saint Denis School, Saint Joseph's University Campus Ministry, Kelly Steller, Brittany Stuart-Fenkel, Temple University Fox School of Business and Management, Christina Theile, The Toppel Family, Villanova University Campus Ministry, Waldron Mercy Academy, Dean and Jackson Walter, Alison and Jon Wear, Craig Wieder

**Winter Holidays:** Ballard, Spahr, Andrews, & Ingersoll, The Bean Café, Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, Christ Church, Contemporary Staffing Solutions, Susan Denenberg, Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, The Fraternal Order of Police, The Horstmann Family, Jewish Family and Children's Service Youth Mitzvah Corps, Keystone Mercy Health Plan, Diane Giunta Klein, MetroKids, Peachtree & Ward Catering, Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth, The Philadelphia Fire Department, The Plough & The Stars, PNC Bank, Reindeerz Ink, Rosemont School of the Holy Child, Betsy and Steve Scharr, Alice Severance, Shire Pharmaceutical, SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Saint Bede's School, Thompson Scientific

A special thank you to Sara Horstmann, Matt Joyce, and Sarah Lisitski for their incredible hard work to organize our holiday outreach.

## Remembering Friends

Project H.O.M.E. joins the family and friends at the Independence Foundation of **Theodore Warner** in celebrating his life and mourning his passing. Ted was a great friend and supporter of Project H.O.M.E.. "Ted was a person of quiet strength," said Sister Mary Scullion. "He encouraged me and many others who wanted to improve the quality of life in Philadelphia."

We also mourn the loss of **Kathy Engebretson**, who headed the William Penn Foundation, also an important supporter of Project H.O.M.E. and other justice organizations over the years. We celebrate Kathy's tremendous contributions to the city of Philadelphia, and we share the sentiments of Janet Haas: "The brightest stars in the sky burn only half as long."

The Project H.O.M.E. community joins many in Philadelphia in sadness over the loss of **G. Fred DiBona, Jr.**, President and CEO of Independence Blue Cross. In accepting one of his numerous awards, Mr. DiBona noted that Philadelphia has many "leaders whose endless civic contributions make this community one of the best places in America to live." Fred DiBona was one such leader and leaves both a tremendous corporate legacy and a legacy of compassion and dedication to our city.



## SPRING WISH LIST

- ♦ Cleaning supplies: sponges, trash bags, laundry detergent, dish soap, and disinfectants
- ♦ Bottled water
- ♦ New twin bed sheet sets, blankets, comforters, and pillows
- ♦ SEPTA tokens
- ♦ New washcloths and towels
- ♦ New underwear and socks for adults
- ♦ Art/office supplies: construction paper, binders, markers, scissors, and fabric
- ♦ Toiletries: deodorant, shaving cream, and razors
- ♦ Storage units

For health reasons, Project H.O.M.E. cannot accept used linens, toys, or dishes. Please contact Development Associate Catherine Darin at 215-232-7272, ext. 3021, for more information on donating to Project H.O.M.E..

## A HELPING HAND

**VOLUNTEERS** are part of the lifeblood of Project H.O.M.E., and Erin O'Brien is making sure that lifeblood is flowing. Erin is Project H.O.M.E.'s new Volunteer Coordinator. She is a proud Philadelphia native who has extensive experience in working with low-income persons and with volunteer programs. If you want to volunteer at Project H.O.M.E., Erin will be more than happy to connect you with one of our many areas of need, which currently include:

- ♦ Computer tutoring for residents of Kate's Place;
- ♦ Microwave cooking lessons for residents of Kate's Place;
- ♦ GED individual tutors;
- ♦ Assistance for high school students in college search and application process;
- ♦ Computer lab monitors; and
- ♦ Yoga, aerobics, fitness, and creative writing group facilitators.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Erin O'Brien at 215-232-7272, ext. 3015 or [erinobrien@projecthome.org](mailto:erinobrien@projecthome.org).

## THE OWNERSHIP SOCIETY

EXCERPTED FROM THE *PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER*

This past January, the editorial board of the Philadelphia Inquirer came and toured our community development activities in North Philadelphia, which were made possible through the invaluable partnerships with Crown Holdings, The PNC Financial Services Group, and Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Brazburg & Ellers, LLP. They also visited the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs, which were built through the tireless leadership and generosity of Lynne and Harold Honickman and the Roberts family. We discussed the challenges and opportunities facing community development organizations like Project H.O.M.E. A few days later, Chris Satullo wrote the following editorial as a letter to President Bush, excerpted below with permission from the Philadelphia Inquirer:

**PROJECT H.O.M.E. TRANSFORMS** blocks that peace had fled. It revives lives that others left for dead. It offers a safe place for women who want to move from hell to hope. Block by block, it is slowly bringing back a part of North Philadelphia that others abandoned with words such as Badlands. It runs the most amazing, high-tech community learning center you'll ever see, right on Judson Street...

Mr. President, Sister Mary and Joan Dawson McConnon would like to talk to you a bit about this "ownership society" idea of yours... Ownership is a

sacred word around Project H.O.M.E.. The program's aim is to raise people up so they can have a home of their own... "Ownership," Sister Mary says, "is an important American value. But what doesn't come through to me in what the President's saying is this: I, as an individual, succeed as part of the common good. We're in this together. We own our problems and successes together. I want that kind of ownership society, not a 'you're on your own' society."

"To create more ownership," McConnon says, "the market alone doesn't make that happen. If you only promote ownership on the part of those who already have the wherewithal to succeed, what does that do? In this community, we have to intervene with investments in persons, property and community. With dollars. Without that, ownership doesn't happen. Without government as a partner, it doesn't happen."

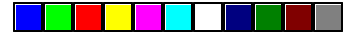
"Private charities such as Project H.O.M.E.," Sister Mary says, "we'd never be able to do the scale we do without government investment. We're feeling it acutely now — the government, at all levels, chipping away at the resources we've been able to leverage..."

Mr. President, before you start hacking the budget to fix that scary deficit you've created, spend an hour up here with Sister Mary... That is the shining city on the hill, Mr. President. Let Project H.O.M.E. show you the way.

To read the full editorial, please see [www.projecthome.org/aboutus/inthenews.html](http://www.projecthome.org/aboutus/inthenews.html).

"We own our problems and successes together. I want that kind of ownership society, not a 'you're on your own' society."

— Sister Mary Scullion



## BUSINESSES WITH A HEART!

*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 ♦ 8:30 am - 2:30 pm ♦ 215-232-6311

- ♦ Stop in to try our delicious daily specials, including wonderful vegetarian delights.
- ♦ Do you work in a Philadelphia office? Our catering service can handle your breakfast meetings, business lunches, or snack tray needs. *Contact Monique Garcia for information at 215-232-7272, ext. 3023 or moniquegarcia@projecthome.org.*
- ♦ For the first time ever, when you come to enjoy the delicacies in the Café, you will be able to purchase and bring home resident artwork on display. Can't take it with you? No problem! It will be tagged as sold until the new show comes around. *Call R.J. Supa 215-232-6322 with questions.*

### OUR DAILY THREADS

Monday thru Friday ♦ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ♦ 215-232-6322

- ♦ Great fashions! Great bargains! Great cause!
- ♦ First Tuesday of each month is Dollar Day!

"The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason to hope."

— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin



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.



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

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Inside...

CELEBRATING KATE'S PLACE:  
Project H.O.M.E. Takes  
Affordable Housing To  
New Heights!