



# Dwelling Place

SEPTEMBER 2003

NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME

## PROJECT

## H.O.M.E.

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

empowers people to break the cycle of homelessness, address the structural causes of poverty, and attain 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; housing and community development; employment training and opportunities; adult and youth education; health care; environmental enhancement; and political advocacy.

### RESIDENCES

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

### SUPPORT SERVICES/PROGRAMS

Adult Education, Employment & Arts  
Community Development Corporation  
Education and Advocacy  
Outreach Coordination Center  
St. Elizabeth's/Diamond Street Community  
Centers and After-school Programs  
Volunteer Program

### BUSINESSES

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

### ADMINISTRATION

215-232-7272

### HOMELESS OUTREACH HOTLINE

215-232-1983

### HUMAN RESOURCES HOTLINE

215-232-7219 x5200

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

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

Project H.O.M.E is pleased that our permanent housing programs were highlighted in the New York Times' June 9, 2003 lead editorial.

Reprinted from

## The New York Times

## Up and Off the Streets

A PHILADELPHIA NUN spotted a homeless alcoholic named Marshall weaving along Walnut Street last week. She zeroed in as he sobered considerably in recognizing her: "Sister Mary," he cooed, kissing the hand of Mary Scullion.

In minutes, Marshall was back in the coils of Project H.O.M.E., Sister Mary's relentless program credited with drastically shrinking Philadelphia's population of the chronically homeless. Crafted from Sister Mary's 25 years of homeless advocacy, the program was ready to steer Marshall to a roof of his own, buttressed

with medical and social services tailored to his needs.

OF ALL THE PROBLEMS of the modern city a decade or two ago, none seemed more intractable than the homeless who were literally underfoot across the nation's sidewalks. But now, fresh approaches to the problem by social workers, business leaders, politicians and police working together have scored such significant progress that the nation's mayors are about to commit to a 10-year plan to end — yes, end — chronic homelessness in America.

THIS IS NO SMALL victory. The old "crackdown" approach of treating the homeless as a blight to be cyclically warehoused and forgotten in cavernous barracks is being replaced by a weave of new programs. These deliver real housing along with well-focused medical and social services. Such cities as Boston, Philadelphia,

New York, Phoenix and Columbus, Ohio, have pioneered this approach, aiming to engage the homeless more than arrest them. Treatment services for substance abuse and mental illness long were afterthoughts

*By coordinating and dovetailing services along with real housing — like ...the hundreds of rooms carved out of more than a dozen Philadelphia neighborhoods by Sister Mary — society gets a much better payoff.*

to the priority of herding the homeless from sight. The new approach integrates these services in a more commodious setting. The nonprofit National Alliance to End Homelessness has been energizing a turnaround that wary pedestrians once deemed impossible. And today, the United States Conference of Mayors is expected to commit officially to the movement to end homelessness at its meeting in Denver.

WHAT MAKES IT SWEET for them as politicians is that the new approach is cost-effective. Dennis Culhane, a leading social work researcher at the University of Pennsylvania, delved into the streets of New York and Philadelphia and discovered that the chronically homeless — single men and women with complicated histories of addiction, illness, imprisonment and neglect — represent only 10 percent of the nation's two million homeless but consume 50 percent of the resources under the old warehousing approach. This was a variation on the old Skid Row revolving-door roundups of people trooped off together to cot-filled armories. By coordinating and dovetailing services along with real housing — like the 15,000 small, livable units built in

(continued on p. 2)

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING: A CITY IN CRISIS

*This information is excerpted from a newly-released study by the University of Pennsylvania's Amy Hillier and Dennis Culhane, entitled Closing the Gap: Housing (un)Affordability in Philadelphia. Read the full study online at <http://cml.upenn.edu/PDFfiles/CLOSINGtheGAP3.pdf>*

**LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS** struggle to afford housing in Philadelphia. Data consistently confirms what housing advocates, public officials, and low-income residents already know: housing costs too much relative to what low-income households receive from low-wage jobs and public assistance. In 2000, Philadelphia had 206,251 households earning less than \$20,000 a year — a full 35 percent of all households in the city.

Following are some key findings of the study: **The poorest households struggle the most to pay for housing.**

- There are 129,109 households in Philadelphia with incomes under \$20,000 paying 30 percent or more of their income for housing.
- There are at least 30,000 fewer affordable housing units in Philadelphia than needed for rental households with incomes below \$20,000.
- 83 percent of renters and 64 percent of homeowners in Philadelphia with incomes under \$20,000 pay 30 percent or more of their income for housing. 70 percent of [these households] actually pay 50 percent or more for housing.

*There are at least 30,000 fewer affordable housing units in Philadelphia than needed for rental households with incomes below \$20,000.*

**The housing affordability problem is primarily the result of inadequate income.**

- Philadelphia has lost tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs in the last few decades, only some of which have been replaced by lower-paying, less permanent service sector jobs.
  - The value of earned income and public assistance payments has not kept pace with increasing housing costs.
- Housing subsidies are needed to make housing affordable for low-income households, but most low-income households do not receive [them].**
- Only one in three rental households in Philadelphia earning less than \$20,000 live in subsidized housing.
  - Philadelphia is losing conventional public housing units.
  - Current income subsidies — in the form of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income, and the Earned Income Tax Credit — are not sufficient to make housing affordable for low-income households.

## UP AND OFF THE STREETS

*(continued from cover page)*

New York or the hundreds of rooms carved out of more than a dozen Philadelphia neighborhoods by Sister Mary—society gets a much better payoff. Individual lives have been salvaged, not merely sheltered, and the larger, far less chronic problem of homeless families can be better managed.

**A CRUCIAL FACTOR** in the mayors' commitment is that they trust a veteran homeless advocate from Massachusetts, Philip Mangano, who is the Bush administration's point man in running a new interagency group devoted to the 10-year

goal. Even as we celebrate this federal innovation, it is important to stress that Mr. Mangano knows better than anyone that more federal resources are needed. The administration endorsed the 10-year goal when it took office and intends to double last year's budget line to \$70 million in coordinating money, which still seems well short of the task. Let's see the administration, so sensitive lately to being called a benefactor of the plutocrat, make a truly credible budget commitment for the chronically homeless.

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### ACTIONS TO END LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS

**THE ENDING LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS SERVICES INITIATIVE (ELHSI)** aims to have Congress appropriate \$30 million for critical services along with housing. We estimate that this initiative will provide 6,000 new units in the first year, and with increased funding, more in future years. Together with the Corporation for Supportive Housing, National Alliance to End Homelessness, and National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Project H.O.M.E. is working to earn the support of Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA, Chair, Senate Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee).

**We urge you to get involved by calling Senator Specter at (202) 224-4254 or (215) 597-7200 to express your support for ELHSI or by writing a letter to our Senators. See [www.projecthome.org/advocacy/overview.html](http://www.projecthome.org/advocacy/overview.html) for more information.**

## PROJECT H.O.M.E. CLASS OF 2003

**PROJECT H.O.M.E. CELEBRATES** three members of our community who are on their way to college this fall. Two graduates, Earl Hylton and Sharnae Johnson, are participants in the Project H.O.M.E. Scholars Program, which provides scholarships to help address the dropout rate of neighborhood children by ensuring a positive academic environment for students identified as having potential to complete high school and attend college. Keiana Starkes, the third graduate, lives in Project H.O.M.E.'s Rowan Homes and will join the ranks of two other Rowan community members as a college student this fall.

Only by educating our youth can we end the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Because there is a direct correlation between the educational attainment of parents and the academic success of their children, ensuring that our community's young people meet academic benchmarks is critical to ensuring a better tomorrow. Special thanks to Joe and Susan Miller and Chuck Barris who have been the lead sponsors of this program. To learn more about the Project H.O.M.E. Scholars Fund, please call Amanda Aronoff, Director of Development, at 215-232-7272.



**Keiana Starkes**

Samuel Fels High School  
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Activities:** White-Williams Scholar,  
National Honor Society, Student  
Council

*"I am going to school because I want to make it in life. I would like to become a teen counselor."*



**Sharnae Johnson**

Hallahan Catholic Girls High School  
Community College of Philadelphia  
**Major:** Social Work  
**Activities:** Project H.O.M.E. Foot  
Stompers Captain, St. Elizabeth's  
After-School Program Staff

*"I want to work with kids because I know where they are coming from. I will be good in that field."*



**Earl Hylton**

Roman Catholic High School  
University of Pittsburgh  
**Major:** Business Management  
**Activities:** Chess, Intramural Basket-  
ball, Community Service Corps

*"Being a part of the Scholars program changed my view on life. I want to give back to others because people have done so much for me."*

## LOOKING BACK: DIAMOND STREET AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

*In this month's column we look into Ms. Evelyn's Fig Garden and explore the roots of our neighborhood after-school and summer children's programs.*

In 1990, after Project H.O.M.E. opened the Diamond Street Residence, Newkirk Street neighbor Evelyn Forbes approached us with a request: could Project H.O.M.E. help her teach African American literature to the children of the neighborhood? Ms. Evelyn was a community activist who had testified in support of the Diamond Street residence before the City's Zoning Board. She told us that she had been struggling on her own to educate the children about their heritage.

That summer, we started a program in her fig garden, reading African American literature. "The summer ended and the kids didn't want to stop," explained Joan Dawson McConnon, Associate Executive Director, "so we set up in the Diamond Street Residence living and dining



*Ms. Evelyn organizes neighborhood children in the early 1990s*

rooms." The program finally landed a permanent home in 1996 at the renovated Diamond Street Community Center. In addition to reading, the program takes trips to the shore, the Linvilla Orchard, and other places, and partners with the Clay Studio to engage children in the arts. "I was concerned about kids on my street and now they are able to help the whole neighborhood," says a grateful Ms. Evelyn.

Currently, Project H.O.M.E. operates four after-school and summer programs at the St. E's and Diamond Street Community Centers and at the PAL Center, and a teen program at St. Elizabeth's Community Center. *For more information, please call Tracy Henry, Director of Neighborhood Services, at 215-235-3110, x19.*

▼



# H.O.M.E. BUILDERS

Working Together to Provide Solutions to Homelessness

## PHENOMENAL FRIENDS



**Name:** Claire H. Reichlin

**Volunteer Since:** 1998

**Volunteer Position:** Director of Educational Scholar Program, member of Board of Directors

**Nature of Activities:** A year after retiring from directing the University of Pennsylvania's Dental Admissions Office, Claire began volunteering with Project H.O.M.E.. It gave her a greater sense of purpose to help young people fulfill their educational potential. Claire is instrumental in enrolling students from the St. Elizabeth's and Diamond Street neighborhoods — which have a 57 percent high school dropout rate — in parochial and private schools. Claire's efforts to secure scholarships have allowed 12 students to participate in the program. This year, the first two scholars graduated from high school and will go on to college (see p. 3 for more information).

Project H.O.M.E. salutes the dedicated volunteers who work every day in our community. Thanks, Claire!

Project H.O.M.E. wishes to acknowledge some of the many individuals and institutions whose generosity has enabled us to run innovative programs that change the lives of real people, every day. Real people like Richard...

*My name is Richard Bogue; I have been a resident at Project H.O.M.E. for just over three years - three good years. I have an extensive history of homelessness and am diagnosed with schizophrenia. I have always loved the arts (I am a self-taught writer and poet). Now that Project H.O.M.E. has given me a real home along with the supportive services that I need, my life has stabilized, my self-esteem has improved, and I am able to focus on my writing. I am also able to give something back to the community. (I volunteer three days per week at Associated Services for the Blind.) With the help of the wonderful people here, I doubt that I will ever be homeless again. When you donate to Project H.O.M.E., you are directly helping me and other folks like me. If not for the work of the wonderful, dedicated staff and the support of people like you, there would be no Project H.O.M.E.*

*Thank you so much. God bless.*

Bill and Sharon Avery  
Sheila and John Connors  
Crown Cork & Seal Company, Inc.  
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Philadelphia Neighborhood Development Collaborative  
Society of the Holy Child Jesus  
Susan and William Wilson  
J. Eustace Wolfington  
Gifts in memory of Genevieve Sullivan

### New Art Exhibit Sponsored by Coalition Ingenu

#### VANISE CLAY:

#### SMALL WORKS AND OTHER PAINTINGS

*A solo show of artwork by former Project H.O.M.E. resident and designer of the mural on 1515 Fairmount Avenue.*

Project H.O.M.E. Café Gallery  
1515 Fairmount Avenue  
July 28 - September 19, 2003

Gallery Hours: M - F, 9 am - 2 pm  
Call for info: 215-878-1825  
[www.coalitioningenu.org](http://www.coalitioningenu.org)



Super Hero, by Vanise Clay

Special thanks to *Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts*, a program of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), who supported the recent 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Project H.O.M.E. Summer Art Exhibit, hosted by Coalition Ingenu. This year, enthusiastic patrons purchased more than twenty works from the Project H.O.M.E. art programs including landscapes, still lifes, and scenes of Philadelphia.



**TEENS COMBINE ART AND TECHNOLOGY**

This summer, participants in the teen program worked hard on their computers and with paint brushes. After studying the work of Aaron Douglas, artist from the Harlem Renaissance, they used their own



*Teens relax with mural artist Dennis Haugh*

silhouettes and computer design programs to produce a mural in a neighborhood playground. Special thanks to artists Dennis Haugh and Cynthia Porter, and the Aileen K. and Brian L. Roberts Foundation for making it possible.

**PANHANDLING IN PHILADELPHIA**

Joined by allies from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP), on May 22 Project H.O.M.E. held a press conference to address media suggestions that police response to panhandling would increase this summer. The press conference reaffirmed the groups' positions that the civil and human rights of those living on the streets must be ensured. HAP agreed to provide legal assistance to people who feel that their rights have been violated, and Project H.O.M.E. has monitored the situation and redoubled outreach efforts to ensure that people are aware of their own rights and where to get help when they need it. For more information, please contact Ed Speedling, Community Liaison, at 215-232-7272.

**CELEBRATING ADULT LEARNING**

Before a standing-room-only crowd, Project H.O.M.E. recognized more than 100 adult learners for their achievements in a range of programs — GED, assertiveness training, job readiness, literacy, creative writing, and

computer skills — which reflect the wide range of interests within our diverse and creative community. Staff, volunteers, board members, family and friends of the honorees applauded their hard work and enthusiasm. At the end of the ceremony we heard many examples of the ways education transforms lives. Amy Antrim, Occupational Services Coordinator, and Walter Sterling, Adult Learning Instructor work daily with men and women from Project H.O.M.E.'s residences and neighborhoods and people referred by other agencies to help them meet educational goals. The event was a fitting celebration as Adult Learning Instructor Walter Sterling leaves to pursue his career as a college professor after three years with Project H.O.M.E.. Thanks and good luck, Walter!



*Sharon proudly poses with her award*

**It's BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!**  
 Finding ways that your school can get involved with Project H.O.M.E. is easy as 1-2-3...

1. Volunteer to help the kids in our after-school programs with literacy and homework. This is a rewarding opportunity for individuals and small groups. Students or teachers can organize groups from your school to come and help out.
2. Students or teachers can organize donations of school supplies, backpacks, and tokens.
3. Include Project H.O.M.E. in your Service Learning Programs! Project H.O.M.E. is a great place for service learning, work-study, internships, practicum, and community service activities.

*Please contact Robin Bonfield at 215-232-7272 or [robinbonfield@projecthome.org](mailto:robinbonfield@projecthome.org) to get started with one of these exciting projects!*

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**  
**DON'T STOP IN THE SUMMER!**

- The grades 4-6 summer camp group has been busy reading in the *100 Book Challenge* and two students have received awards for their progress.
- The pre-K and kindergarten group members are learning the alphabet and how to write their names. The first graders are working on word families and building sentences. And the second and third graders are enjoying *Charlotte's Web*.
- Afternoons are full of cooking, science lessons, movies, arts and crafts, and trips to the library. On Funky Fridays children wear their clothes inside-out and enjoy activities including bowling, roller-skating, park trips, and educational field trips.

*"The things I like about St. Elizabeth's summer camp are trips, games, and when we write... I like when Ms. Darreth and Ms. Michelle play games and do science with us!"*

— Breanna, age 10



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

1515 Fairmount Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19130

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**Upcoming Events**

**July 28 - September 19 - Art Show** - Vanise Clay:  
Small Works and Other Paintings - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm,  
Monday - Friday (Project H.O.M.E. Café Gallery at 1515  
Fairmount Avenue)

**September 23 - Volunteer Recognition Party** -  
Thanks to all who make it possible, every day! 6:00 pm  
(Girard College, 2101 S. College Avenue) R.S.V.P. to Robin  
Bonfield, Volunteer Coordinator, at 215-232-7272.

**October 6 - Last day to register to vote** before the  
November Election. Call the County Board of Elections at  
215-686-3469 for more information or call Jennine Miller,  
Coordinator of Education and Advocacy, at 215-232-7272  
to get involved in voter registration efforts.

**October 15 - Kate's Place Groundbreaking** -  
Ceremony and celebration for a new 144-unit affordable  
housing development - 10:00 am (1929 Sansom Street)

For more information on all events, call 215-232-7272 or  
visit [www.projecthome.org](http://www.projecthome.org).

“A CIVILIZATION FLOURISHES WHEN  
PEOPLE PLANT TREES UNDER WHICH  
THEY WILL NEVER SIT.”

- GREEK PROVERB

**SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST  
HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY!**

*If your workplace participates in the United Way  
Donor Choice Campaign, consider making a donation  
to Project H.O.M.E. We receive critical funding if you  
designate us on your Donor Choice Form.*

**United Way Donor  
Choice Number  
09843**

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.