

Spirit of Generosity

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARTNERS



Photo by Elie Gordon

Volunteers from St. Thomas of Villanova parish (left to right): Trish Hosmer, John Rafferty, Fran Johannes, Liz Ruben, Linda Conn, and Marci Wade

With more than 20 years of partnership with Project HOME, St. Thomas of Villanova (STV) parishioners are no strangers to serving others.

After over a decade of volunteering at Project HOME's St. Columba's safe haven, St. Thomas volunteers learned there was a need for adult tutors at our Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs (HLCCTL) and decided to try their hand at it. They have been volunteering there ever since.

St. Thomas of Villanova volunteers provide influential support to adult learners at the HLCCTL in a multitude of ways. If adults are identified as having a 4th-grade reading level or below, they are assigned to the STV class. The learning support does not stop there, though. STV volunteers help learners with whatever their needs might be, such as GED preparations, complicated math problems, or, in one particularly memorable case, improved reading.

Years ago, one student came to the STV volunteers in need of support. When they began their work together, the student could not read. Soon thereafter, the group recognized that she had dyslexia and worked to get her support for her learning disability. Now, she is reading, has a high school diploma, and is employed. A STV tutor meets with her to this day at a coffee shop closer to the student's house to continue their work together.

"It doesn't matter how slow you go, as long as you don't stop," volunteer group leader Fran Johannes tells current and future learners. STV volunteers are passionate about meeting students where they are and encouraging them to continue on their journey of learning, however that may look. St. Thomas of Villanova's supportive partnership with the HLCCTL's staff and the tangible closeness to Project HOME's mission informs their great work with students.

This passionate group of volunteers views ending homelessness in Philadelphia through an educational lens. Armed with the belief that anyone who wants to learn should have someone there to help them, STV volunteers combat the issues of homelessness and poverty one learner at a time. Project HOME is incredibly grateful for the dedication, generosity, and support of St. Thomas of Villanova. For 20 years (and, hopefully, many more ahead), they have helped so many learn what it means to be HOME.



1515 Fairmount Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Our Mission

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

Our Residences

- 1515 and 1523 Fairmount Avenue
- Hope Haven I/II, 2827-28 Diamond Street
- Connelly House, 1212 Ludlow Street
- Francis House of Peace, 810 Arch Street
- Kairos House, 1440 N. Broad Street
- Kate's Place, 1929 Sansom Street
- James Widener Ray Homes, 2101 W. Venango
- JBJ Soul Homes, 1415 Fairmount Avenue
- Rowan I, 2729-A W. Diamond Street
- Rowan II, 1901 N. Judson Street
- St. Columba, 4133 Chestnut Street
- St. Elizabeth's Recovery, 1850 N. Croskey St.
- Women of Change, 2042 Arch Street

Support Services & Programs

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

Businesses

- HOME Spun Resale Boutique, 215-232-6322
- HOME Made Products, 215-232-7272, ext. 3023

Administration

215-232-7272

Homeless Outreach Hotline

215-232-1984

Human Resources Hotline

215-232-7219 ext. 5200

www.projecthome.org



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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, Pa
Permit No. 01219



From Crisis to Hope



Photo by Michael Grainer
Project HOME resident Katie Dougherty (pictured here in front of artwork in the lobby of JBJ Soul Homes) bears witness to the power of recovery.

Katie Dougherty says it with a painful bluntness: "I didn't grow up hoping to be a heroin addict." And she could hardly have foreseen the eventual consequences when almost fifteen years ago a doctor prescribed Percocet for her severe back pain. Because of how it improved her mood – easing depression and anxiety – she gradually became addicted. Within a few short years, her life was a living nightmare. "There I was, a mother of four from a good background, lost in Kensington doing whatever I had to do to get another hit."

Katie's story is playing out with alarming frequency all over the country. We are hearing more and more about the deepening epidemic of opioid addictions, including massive spikes in overdose deaths. The numbers are staggering – a 500 percent increase in opioid overdoses since 2000; in Philadelphia, more than twice as many deaths from drug overdose than from homicide in 2016.

The Project HOME community witnesses this social crisis on a daily basis. Through our street outreach to persons who are homeless and through our Hub of

Hope winter drop-in center, we see the first-hand human reality of this drug epidemic. We are experiencing its toll in the neighborhoods we serve and among community members. We have been working with numerous governmental and nonprofit partners to develop effective solutions and support urgently needed policies to provide resources for solutions, both in our own programs and for the city as a whole.

In fact, a positive political initiative has created a unique and important opportunity for a meaningful response. Last year, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf pushed for the creation of a network of state-wide Centers of Excellence (COE). These Centers were designed to connect persons struggling with opioid addictions to comprehensive, community-based treatment. Project HOME worked with a City Task Force to implement the Governor's strategy in Philadelphia, and are now partners, along with Prevention Point Philadelphia and Pathways to Housing PA. Our Stephen Klein Wellness Center (SKWC) hosts one of the Centers of Excellence.

(continued on page 3)

Closer to HOME



Photo by Larry Arney
The finishing touches are being put on our new residence at 2415 N. Broad Street, scheduled to open this summer.

In a few months, 88 persons will walk into a new home, and we will be closer to ending homelessness in Philadelphia – thanks to Project HOME's newest development at 2415 N. Broad Street.

The \$24 million project, funded with a combination

of public and private money, including support from Ruth and Morris Williams, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, the City of Philadelphia, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, will provide permanent affordable housing for persons who have experienced or are at risk of homelessness. The units are all efficiency apartments, 14 of which will be designed for persons with physical or sensory impairments. The Philadelphia Housing Authority is providing long-term rental assistance.

2415 was also designed with an eye to responding to a growing aspects of the homelessness crisis: Twenty units are reserved for young adults (ages 18 to 23), who represent the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Many of these young people have already experienced homelessness or are at severe risk, including those aging out of foster care. Of this population, a large percentage are LGBTQ, many of whom have faced family and social rejection.

Our last two developments (JBJ Soul Homes and (continued on page 2)

www.projecthome.org



Photo by Lisa Gong

"An act of love may tip the balance."
ELIE WIESEL

A volunteer and guest at Project HOME's Hub of Hope in the Center City underground concourse. This year's Hub, which was open from January to early April, served approximately 1,500 persons, with hundreds receiving housing placement, physical and behavioral healthcare, and other services.

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.

Bring Philly HOME

HOSTED BY THE YOUNG LEADERS COMMITTEE OF



WEDNESDAY
MAY 31, 2017

6:30 to 9:00PM

One North Broad Street
at the Masonic Temple
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Please join the Project HOME community for a special evening hosted by our Young Leaders Committee. Your attendance will provide critical resources for Project HOME's street outreach, supportive housing, and comprehensive services and programs—all which bring us closer to ending chronic street homelessness in Philadelphia.

Enjoy an evening that includes fine hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and a silent auction as you network and make new connections.



Please visit: <https://projecthome.org/bring-philly-home-event>
For more information, contact Stephanie Lin at 215.309.5239 or stephanielin@projecthome.org

Roots and Branches: Reflections from Sister Mary

In recent years, we have dared to speak boldly about ending and preventing homelessness. And we have seen significant progress in the past few years: a dramatic decrease in the number of persons who are homeless nationwide, several cities who have practically eliminated street homelessness – and of course, the great progress we have been making here in Philadelphia.

But that progress may be at risk. The recent release of the Trump Administration’s proposed federal budget sent shockwaves through communities around the country, including nonprofits, services providers, faith communities, organizers, and others who work on the front lines of poverty and economic vulnerability in America.

The Trump budget would cut \$6.2 billion from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 2018—a decrease of 13 percent—and would totally eliminate several HUD programs, including the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership. Nineteen other federal agencies that serve low-income and struggling communities (such as the the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation) would also be totally eliminated. (For a more detailed analysis of the budget, go to www.bit.ly/2017federalbudget.)

The impact of these cuts would be devastating. Our efforts to address the affordable housing crisis would suffer an enormous setback. The goal of expanding healthcare and other vital services that can stabilize families and communities would recede into near

impossibility. This proposed budget would have an unprecedented impact on accelerating homelessness and increasing the economic divide – and thereby contribute to broader instability and higher expenses in cities across the country.

For almost 30 years, we have forged a tremendously successful model of private-public partnerships to advance our mission. We have benefited from the amazing generosity of individuals, organizations, corporations, and faith communities: Their investment in housing and services has helped enable thousands of people to break the cycle of homelessness and also revitalized economically devastated neighborhoods. But the public sector – the critical investments of federal and state resources – has also been essential to our success. While we can dialogue about the proper role of government, Project HOME and our partners have experienced the phenomenal impact of good public policies – and we know the awful consequences when the government is not playing its role.

We are committed to a just and humane society for all people – and this is a critical time of challenge to that commitment. We at Project HOME – residents, staff, supporters – are working with local and national coalitions to assess the impact of proposed budget policies. We are also working on effective strategies to respond. As we consider the possible impact of this budget on Project HOME, on the city of Philadelphia, and on the nation as a whole, we invite you to join us in this effort. You can go to our website (www.projecthome.org/advocate) to find more details and actions you can take.

Sister Mary Scullion



Photo by Dave Heiring
Sister Mary Scullion, Co-founder and Executive Director of Project HOME

Closer to HOME (continued from page 1)

Francis House of Peace) also had special units for young adults. A wonderful surprise, says Project HOME’s Director of Residential Services Carolyn Crouch-Robinson, has been to witness the development of some great intergenerational relationships. “The way the older adults and young people have provided mentoring and support for each other has been healing for both.”

“Philadelphia will have a concrete manifestation of hope for a stronger future.”

In our mission statement, we assert that “working to end homelessness and poverty enhances the quality of life for everyone in our community.” 2415 demonstrates that mission in action. As with all our developments, the \$24 million project is fostering

jobs and economic activity. The first floor will include 2,457 square feet of retail space. The building is also strategically situated to support the City of Philadelphia’s goals of development along the North Broad Street Corridor which is identified as an opportunity zone. The area currently has many underutilized buildings and lots with a proximity to public transportation, as well as to Temple University’s main campus and health system campus. Project HOME’s new residence will help reestablish North Broad Street as a mixed-use urban area and to promote Philadelphia’s image as a “walker’s city.”

“One thing that is very special about 2415,” notes Carolyn Crouch-Robinson, “is that it is close to our original target neighborhood in North Central Philadelphia, which still has

some of highest poverty in the city.” Project HOME staff, led by new Program Manager Qasim Moore, (see the article on *Qasim on page 3*), envision the building as more than just permanent housing for homeless and low-income persons; with plenty of retail and community space, the building has the capacity to host programming for both residents and neighbors.

2415 N. Broad Street is the fifth project of the Middleton Partnership, a public/private initiative funded by a transformational gift from Leigh and John Middleton. When it opens, this beautiful new building will be further testimony to the success of the visionary leadership of the Middletons and our other partners – and bring us all closer to our goal of ending and preventing homelessness in Philadelphia.

Applications for 2415 N. Broad Street will be accepted starting on June 1. If recent years are a guide, we will receive 800 or more applications on the first day – clear proof of the urgent need for affordable housing.

Sometime later this summer, doors will open to welcome 88 persons home. And a North Central Philadelphia neighborhood will have a concrete manifestation of hope for a stronger future. We will all celebrate that accomplishment – and then continue working on this important mission.

For more information on our 2415 N. Broad Street residence, including how to apply, go to www.projecthome.org/2415.

From Crisis to Hope (continued from page 1)

A key component of the COE model is Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). Most people are aware of methadone clinics, which is a MAT. This model provides addicted persons with specialized drugs that control opioid cravings and withdrawals. Katie, a resident at Project HOME’s JBJ Soul Homes, benefited from the MAT model, and she can vouch for its effectiveness. “People say you’re trading one addiction for another, but for me and many others, it was a life-saver.” COE treatment also goes deeper, dealing with the whole person, offering an integration of behavioral and physical healthcare from a case management team. The Centers cater treatment to the individual, understanding that he or she has a unique path in overcoming the addiction. Currently, about 30 persons are enrolled in the local program, either at the

“Part of the problem is a persistent social stigma toward people using substances.”

Stephen Klein Wellness Center, or at the other local site, Pathways to Housing. We are only in the early stages of this initiative, but already we are encouraged that about 80 percent of SKWC participants are sober or moving toward sobriety.

“Part of the problem is a persistent social stigma toward people using substances,” says Dr. Mudit Gilotra, Director of Integrated Healthcare Services at the Stephen Klein Wellness Center, who oversees Project HOME’s Center of

Excellence program. He believes the COE model demonstrates how a combination of best clinical practices with sound public policy can make a real difference in both the lives of thousands of persons and in the health of our community as a whole. He also affirms how this model of treatment fits within the broader vision of Project HOME: Real recovery requires the stability provided by housing and access to basic supports like education, healthcare, and economic opportunity.

Now in her sixth year of recovery, Katie is a passionate advocate for those still in the grips of addiction. She is certified to counsel persons with opioid addiction on HIV and Hep-C. She has worked with Prevention Point Philadelphia, reaching out to those on the streets, connecting them to treatment. She too knows that public stigmas, misinformation, and lack of understanding are obstacles to the urgently needed help. “We need to educate the public – even young kids, who could easily go into their parents’ medicine cabinets and find the medications.”

We must pay attention to the dire headlines and come to grips with the seriousness of the crisis. But we also need hope – the kind of hope embodied by Katie Dougherty, who shows the living power of recovery; Mudit Gilotra and the staff at the Stephen Klein Wellness Center COE, whose tireless and compassionate efforts to provide healing are having a real impact; and policy-makers who overcome partisan divides to forge real solutions that benefit our society. All of us must seize that hope and together build a culture of recovery.

I Am Project HOME

QASIM MOORE



Photo by Michael Gainer

Qasim Moore vividly remembers the moment that set his course in life. He was sitting in a welfare office – a place he never imagined he would possibly be. From a middle-class family in West Oak Lane with both parents in career navy jobs and

charter school police department, and received two masters degrees – all the while raising 10 children. A nearly fatal stroke only deepened his commitment. “It makes you ask: What’s your legacy? What do you want to leave behind?”

Qasim returned to Project HOME in 2014, taking the role of services coordinator and later Program Manager at Kate’s Place. The residence was in trouble when he arrived, but he and his staff worked hard to foster a nurturing atmosphere grounded in a spirit of recovery. Ever one for a new challenge, Qasim recently was named Program Manager of our soon-to-be-opened residence at 2415 N. Broad Street (see the article on page 1) Ironically, it’s just a couple of blocks from the shelter he lived in more than 20 years ago, where he first reached out for help.

He has big hopes in his new position. In addition to the hard work of opening the new residence, Qasim wants 2415 to be a “hub for the community.” He envisions the building hosting programs for neighbors, and at the same time nurturing a spirit of community service and engagement among residents, while helping them develop employable skills. “When people see 2415, I want them to see not just a building where ‘those people live,’” he shared. “I want them to see a part of the community where positive things happen.”

With Qasim Moore in charge, it’s pretty likely that lots of positive things will happen.

Information That Matters to You

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

Go to www.bit.ly/PH_Subscribe or contact michaeltgainer@projecthome.org

Also, follow us on social media:



www.facebook.com/projecthome



www.twitter.com/projecthome



www.youtube.com/projecthomephilly

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

www.projecthome.org/blog

HOME Happenings



Photo by Rodney Ailenzo

◆ From our very beginnings, the M in HOME (“medical care”) has been part of our vision of ending homelessness. Over the years, no one has played a more pivotal role in making that commitment real than Dr. James Plumb. Jim, who came to us from Jefferson University Hospital, helped us establish some of our very first health programs over 20 years ago. He was also continually educating medical students and young health professionals about the social realities that impact health and healthcare for vulnerable

and struggling communities. Jim is moving on from Project HOME later this spring, and while that is a huge loss for us, his impact will continue in immeasurable ways. We are grateful for how much he has enriched our mission and brought wellness to so many people.



Photo by Rodney Ailenzo

◆ For those same 20-plus years, Jim Plumb’s colleague, Dr. Lara Carson Weinstein, was also instrumental in helping us establish and expand our healthcare program. Lara was recently honored by Pathways to Housing through their Grace & Kindness Award – a fitting tribute to her passionate commitment to underserved and struggling people and communities. She too has been a gift to Project HOME and the people we serve.

◆ As part of an ongoing collaboration with the Barnes Foundation, nine Project HOME artists displayed new work in the museum’s “Person of the Crowd” exhibit at a special event on April 2. The artists also participated in a panel discussion, sharing their stories and experiences of how homelessness affected their creative process.

Project HOME artists at the Barnes Foundation



Photo by Ellie Gordon

◆ Project HOME is inviting high school students to participate in a summer service program focused on learning about issues of poverty and homelessness. The experience (there are options for one or two weeks) will allow students to build relationships with others involved in social change, get to know persons who have experienced poverty and homelessness, and engage in service with Project HOME and other agencies fighting poverty, hunger, and homelessness in Philadelphia. If you are interested in what could be a powerful and transformative experience, contact Margie Winters, Coordinator of our Service Learning Program, at margiewinters@projecthome.org or 215-232-7272, ext. 3092, or go to www.bit.ly/PH_SummerService.

Join us in celebrating the young talent of Project HOME
Wednesday, April 26th, 2017 from 5:30 to 7:00pm at the Honickman Learning Center & Comcast Technology Labs
1936 N. Judson Street

Live Music Performances • Student Films • Photography Exhibit
Food served by our culinary students • Awesome prizes for every category!

◆ We mark the passing of two dear friends who were among our earliest supporters. Peter McVeigh was a volunteer and advocate for over two decades. A long-time teacher at Germantown Academy, he nurtured a spirit of compassion and social responsibility in thousands of students over the years. Dr. Eugene “Gene” Garfield, founder of the Institute for Scientific Information and leader in the field of analytics, believed in our work and the mission of ending homelessness. He was among our first and most faithful supporters.

◆ Our co-founder and Associate Executive Director Joan McConnon was highlighted as one of ten “Women Who Are Making a Difference” by Affordable Housing Finance. We have long known the tremendous work she does – and it’s good that others learn about. You can read the article here: www.bit.ly/DifferenceMakingWomen



Photo by Harvey Finkle