

# News FROM HOME



NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME

## Nurturing HOME Made Success

Photo by Michael Gainer



The economy is booming at Project HOME as we launch HOME Made products. Here, staff member Rachel Ehrgood works with a resident on candle-making.

Samuel, a resident of 1515 Fairmount Avenue, knits his brow in concentration as he lifts the newly crafted candle from its mold. As artisan instructor Patty Burns looks on, he inspects the craftsmanship – the smooth curves, the even colors, the well-placed wick. He breaks into a smile of pride. This one, he knows, is well done and will go for sale, earning him a well-deserved bit of income as well as a sense of accomplishment.

Employment and income are critical components in overcoming homelessness and poverty. They are also essential to human dignity and self-respect. From our earliest days, as the O in our names suggests, Project HOME has been committed to and worked to create Opportunities for Employment for our residents and community members. Our Employment Services program has had many permutations and initiatives over the years. We are now entering a promising new phase in our employment services. This fall we are launching a more expansive, multifaceted Social Enterprise program.

The goal of our Social Enterprise program is to create meaningful employment opportunities and occupational training for low-income and formerly homeless adults and teenagers. Through an informal workshop environment, residents will create handmade crafts at a self-directed pace, while supported by artisan volunteers, and art and sales staff.

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## Saving the World Through Beauty



Randall Sykes, a resident of Kairos House, is our featured artist of the season. His work is currently on display at 1515 Fairmount Avenue.

“Beauty will save the world.” The famous quote of the Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky was a favorite of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, a network of communities that provide hospitality to poor persons and advocate for justice. Day, whose life and work were enormously influential to the founders of Project HOME, understood that art and beauty were not luxury commodities reserved only for those of economic means, but were

vital for the human spirit. Certainly persons trapped in poverty need such basics as housing and food and income, but like all of us, they also need art, creative expression, and aesthetic wonder.

Obviously, in seeking to develop programs and services to empower people to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty, we worked on shelter and housing, medical care and recovery services, education and employment. But as we learned from persons who have experienced the deep psychic wounds and profound social alienation that come with homelessness and poverty, we came to understand that true healing requires other elements as well. Beauty, creativity, and expressiveness are equally essential in restoring human dignity and wholeness.

That’s why we are eager for our friends and supporters to join us for our next amazing exhibition of Project HOME art. We are proudly partnering with Drexel University to present a gallery show entitled “**Artists for All Seasons.**” The show’s opening and reception will take place on **Wednesday, October 16, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Drexel University’s URBN Center, 3501 Market Street.** (Please RSVP by emailing

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## Roots and Branches: Reflections from Sister Mary

As we approach our 25th anniversary in 2014, we are astonished by the accomplishments of so many in the Project HOME community and with the substantial progress and development. Throughout the years some things have remained constant. When you speak to people who are experiencing homelessness about what they need, the most common answer is the same as it was 25 years ago: a place to live and a job.

That's why, in our origins and continuing today, housing and employment have been strategic to our work and mission, along with health care and education. As you will read in this newsletter, this year we are placing a particular emphasis on expanding opportunities for people to work through competitive employment, paid internships, social enterprises, and, of course, continuing education and skill development.

Last spring, we were deeply inspired when we had the opportunity to visit our friends at Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles. Their founder, Father Greg Boyle, has rightly earned national recognition for his phenomenal work among young people caught up in Los Angeles' notorious gang culture. "Nothing stops a bullet like a job," Father Greg is fond of saying. We got to know Father Greg and some of his "homies" when they visited Philadelphia last year. And we were very taken with his beautiful book, *Tattoos of the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, which many of us at Project HOME read during the year. We knew we had

found kindred spirits, with their strong emphasis on grace, compassion, and unconditional love.

So it was great to get the opportunity to see Homeboy Industries' phenomenal work firsthand. We were inspired by their accomplishments in creating meaningful employment and fostering a culture of recovery. (You can learn more about their work at [www.homeboyindustries.org](http://www.homeboyindustries.org).)

It is not only inspiring but it is a powerful testament of what is possible to see adults or teens working diligently and responsibly, tapping into new-found skills, and exuding pride at a job well done. It is transformational for that person, and it enriches our entire community. As David Brown, a resident at Ray Homes who works at our HOME Spun Resale Boutique, puts it, "Employment and being in a working atmosphere are a very important part of getting back into society. I'm happy to be part of Project HOME's employment program – it gives me stability, a sense of accomplishment, and a goal of getting up every day and going to work."

To see David at work (and I hope many of you do, shopping at HOME Spun!) is to see the power of transformation at work. And we look forward, with your support and partnership, to much more transformation as we move into the future.

*A. Mary Scullion*



Photo by Rodney Altanza

Sister Mary Scullion,  
Co-founder and Executive  
Director of Project HOME

## Saving the World through Beauty (continued from page 1)

[rsup@projecthome.org](mailto:rsup@projecthome.org) or calling 215-232-7272, ext. 3045.) Many of our residents and Teen Program participants will be displaying their work. The show will run through Wednesday, October 23. We are grateful for our event sponsors Pam Estadt and Ira Lubert, to those at Drexel University who have made this show possible, to Bonnie Eisner, who secured the gallery space, and to Shan Cerrone, who has helped with promotions. And thanks to a wonderful group of trustees and volunteers who serve on our Arts Advisory Board, which sets the direction for our arts programming.

*“Beauty, creativity, and expressiveness are essential in restoring human dignity and wholeness.”*

From our earliest years, Project HOME has featured programs for artistic creativity. We believe the arts are a vital part of celebrating the human spirit and healing our world. Our studios and galleries have tapped some astonishing talent. Long dormant creativity has sprung to life. We have seen residents open up and reveal remarkable new sides of themselves. We don't think of it as “art therapy,” but outlets for creativity and beauty in their many manifestations. These opportunities can be an integral component in a person's journey of recovery and healing. The arts can also play an important role in breaking down negative stereotypes and demonstrating that even persons who are socially marginalized have remarkable gifts.

Rachel Ehrgood, who directs our arts programs, reflects on the value of the arts at Project HOME: “We are very fortunate, on



This work by Emmanuel Havens is one of the pieces that will be featured in the upcoming Project HOME art show at Drexel University

Fairmount Avenue residence and one of our featured artists. “It helps me sell my art and realize my potential. I like the fact that I can express my creativity.”

As the arts flourish, so does the human spirit. And so do communities. Even though these are small efforts, we are convinced that bit by bit, our small corner of the world is being saved by beauty.

For more information on Project HOME's art programs, contact Rachel Ehrgood at 215-232-7272, ext. 3027 or [rehrgood@projecthome.org](mailto:rehrgood@projecthome.org)

all sides of the art making process, as creators and viewers, to experience the powers art has to strengthen and provide enlightenment to the human experience.”

“The arts program at Project HOME helps me be an empowered woman,” says Julia Galetti, a resident of our 1515

# Nurturing HOME Made Success

(continued from page 1)

Residents earn income piecemeal by producing goods for sale online, as well as at Project HOME locations and events.

The entrepreneurial spirit has long been alive in Project HOME. Shortly after moving into 1515 Fairmount, we started two businesses, Back Home Café and Our Daily Threads Thrift Store. For a short time we operated a progressive bookstore and community center, Cornerstone

are more ambitious and able can make more money crafting more items, others can work at a slower pace as needed. The workshops are fluid and resident-driven, accommodating those residents whose motivation and productivity increase or decrease over time. Our hope is that we can tap the motivation of residents who will create their own products that are an expression of their skills as well as being income producing.

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*“The entrepreneurial spirit has long been alive in Project HOME.”*

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Books. Our Harold A. Honickman Young Entrepreneur Program nurtures teens in small business skills. The Restroom Attendant program at the Free Library of Philadelphia is an innovative partnership, as is the HOME Page Café.

But the impetus for a more full-fledged social enterprise program came during a visit to Los Angeles by several staff members. There, they learned from the community at Homeboy Industries, the nationally recognized program founded by Father Greg Boyle that has had tremendous success in providing employment to former gang members. Our crew returned to Philadelphia filled with vision and excitement.

In addition to the already existing Restroom Attendant program and HOME Page Café at the Free Library of Philadelphia, a key part of our social enterprises is the newly opened HOME Spun Resale Boutique, a “Fashionable Jobs Initiative” located at 1523 Fairmount Avenue. (For more on HOME Spun, see page 6.) As we go to press, we are launching HOME Made products, a brand of handmade cards, jewelry, candles, and soaps, created in workshops by residents.

Another very special HOME Made offering is “Sister Mary’s Sinfully Delicious Cranberry Sauce,” a seasonal relish, which residents will help in cooking, packaging, and selling during the holiday season.

The social enterprise model we are developing represents a significant evolution in our employment services. We will have greater flexibility in providing jobs and training opportunities for residents who are initially lacking in employment-ready skills. The “continuum” model – from piecework workshops to seasonal employment, to internships to full-time employment – creates possibilities for residents at different levels of employability, to both enter the system and move within it. The workshops are designed to allow residents to work at their own pace – those who

“We are excited about this new direction,” said Scarlet McCahill, manager of our Social Enterprise program. “We will be able to engage residents across a spectrum of confidence, skills for employability, and independence. The program aims to embrace and expand upon each person’s gifts and abilities by offering employment for a variety of skills and interests.”

“I’m excited for a new experience,” says Darlene Allen, a resident of Ray Homes, who will work packing cranberry sauce. “I am proud that I have a little part-time job keeping me going. This is opening me up to new experiences. This is the first work I’ve had in five years.”

We have high hopes for this new direction for Project HOME, but like any business venture, it comes with risks. As with so much of our mission, the success of our new social enterprises depends in large part on our community of friends and supporters. You can support our residents by purchasing HOME Made products – an especially good idea with the upcoming holidays. (We can even make available large quantities of any of our products if your business wants to use them for holiday gifts.) If you are a retailer, consider selling our products at your store.

But for now we are certain that, with these new employment and income opportunities, the future will burn more brightly for many of our residents. Not unlike, say, the bright flame of a beautiful handmade artisan candle.

*For more information on our Social Enterprise program, contact Scarlet McCahill, 215-232-7272 ext. 3075 or [scarletmccahill@projecthome.org](mailto:scarletmccahill@projecthome.org).*

*Thanks to many companies and persons who have played an important role in launching our new Social Enterprise initiatives: Janet and John Haas; Klehr, Harrison, Harvey and Branzburg, LLP; DiBruno Brothers, New York & Florida; Sue and Natalie Darr; Kathe Scullion; Neil Patterson; Patty Burns; Shan Cerrone; John Connors; Chris Robinson; Bill Binder, President, Candlewic Company; and Amy Turk, Chief Program Officer, Downtown Women’s Center, Los Angeles.*

## A Poor Woman’s Prayer

By Jamilla James



Dear God,  
As I kneel down on  
My knees  
Help me Lord to stay  
Clean and keep me safe in  
These wicked streets as I lay  
My head to sleep  
When I rise  
Guide me in peace  
Give me strength to walk the streets  
With my head held high and shoulders back  
With a smile on my face and never complain  
Always give thanks for  
What I have  
And the courage to change  
What I don’t have.  
This journey of mine  
Won’t last long  
With the help of God  
I will not be a poor woman for long

*Jamilla James is a resident of our Women of Change safe haven. Her poetry has inspired some of the other residents and volunteers. She has had hardships and is able to channel her struggles into beautiful words. Writing has helped her overcome her fears in life.*

### Where to Find HOME Made Products:

#### HOME Spun Retail Boutique

1523 Fairmount Avenue  
Open Tuesday-Friday 11:00 am – 6:00 pm,  
Saturday 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm  
215-232-6322

#### HOME Page Café, Free Library Parkway

Branch, 1901 Vine Street  
Open Monday-Thursday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm,  
Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
215-320-6191

Or shop online at [www.projecthome.org/shop](http://www.projecthome.org/shop)

# HOME Happenings



On September 3, **Queen Latifah** paid a visit to Project HOME, spending time with residents and staff, and presenting a generous \$10,000 check from Citizens Bank. Queen Latifah herself made the amazing gift of a new van. To the right of Queen Latifah is Dan Fitzpatrick, president of Citizens Bank. On September 26, she featured Project HOME on her new TV show. This photo was taken by our resident David Brown on his cellphone.

◆ **Project HOME has been selected to participate in a national initiative focusing on the health and well-being** of our dedicated and hard-working staff. The National Healthy Worksite Program is sponsored by the national Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and is aimed at small- to mid-sized employers throughout the country. A key goal is to assess the health risks of our staff and create opportunities for staff to reduce their risk for injury and chronic illness and make choices that lead to wellness. This gives us an important opportunity to live out our commitment that self-care enables us to care for and empower others.

◆ **It's already been a quarter century!** 2014 marks Project HOME's 25th anniversary, and we will be marking the milestone with celebrations and events throughout the year. Because all of you are part of our community and have played a role in our tremendous growth over the years, we hope you can join in the festivities. Check out our special 25th anniversary website for more details – <http://bit.ly/ProjectHOME25>



**Thank You to the Sponsors**  
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**Claire Reichlin and Dr. Walter Cohen**

**Brian and Aileen Roberts**



Photo by Sarah Mueller.

On September 25, hundreds of our friends and supporters gathered at Urban Outfitters at the Navy Yard for the 2013 Young Leaders Event, in celebration of the 10th anniversary of our Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs (HLCCTL). The evening featured good food and drink, a silent auction, and fabulous performers, like Mickel Lewis, Bernard Conner, and Terrell Williams (left), who participate in the youth programs at the HLCCTL and who launched their own recording company, Inner Power Records. Funds raised will allow us to continue our educational successes among North Philadelphia youth and adults.

# I am Project HOME

REGINALD JOHNSON

Photo by Michael Gainer



**R**eggie Johnson credits a stranger with turning his life around.

He was homeless and in the throes of addiction in New York City (where he had fled to from his native Philadelphia, in an unsuccessful effort to escape the clutches of drugs). He had been almost seven years on the streets, and prospects for his life were dim. “This man saw something in me I couldn’t see myself,” Reggie remembers. “He didn’t give me financial support, but he gave me moral and spiritual support.” He took Reggie to a recovery program, where his life began to turn around.

“I asked how I could repay him, and he said to me very simply, ‘Help someone else.’”

And so was born a passion, which continues to burn today. Reggie got off the streets, got clean and sober (almost 18 years now), and began to vigorously pursue education and training – starting with a certificate in alcohol and substance abuse counseling, and culminating in a Master’s Degree in Social Work from Temple University in 2006. He came to Project HOME in 2011, and eventually became Program Manager of our St. Elizabeth’s Recovery Residence.

Reggie says his work at Project HOME is not just a job, but his passion, his true calling in life, which is to make a difference in people’s lives. Working with the guys in the recovery residence, he is able to engage them by sharing his own story of trials and tribulations. “I am in a place where I can encourage them by sharing my strengths. I can instill hope and empower them to make good choices in their lives.” He acknowledges that the St. E’s residents encourage him in his ongoing recovery.

Reggie has more than made good on his promise to the stranger who helped him. The residents at St. Elizabeth’s speak with emotion of their respect and love for him as he mentors, befriends, and accompanies them on their recovery. “Project HOME is where God means for me to be,” Reggie says. We hope his passion continues to burn and he continues to transform lives at Project HOME for many years.

## Stay Connected!

Keep in touch with HOME Happenings on a regular basis because you are a valuable member of the Project HOME community.

Do you want to receive our Newsletter and advocacy alerts?

Contact

[michaelgainer@projecthome.org](mailto:michaelgainer@projecthome.org)

Also, follow us on social media:



[www.facebook.com/projecthome](http://www.facebook.com/projecthome)



[www.twitter.com/projecthome](http://www.twitter.com/projecthome)



[www.youtube.com/projecthomephilly](http://www.youtube.com/projecthomephilly)

And don’t miss the great stuff on the Project HOME Blog – [www.projecthomeblog.org](http://www.projecthomeblog.org)

## Spirit of Generosity

### THE WILT CHAMBERLAIN MEMORIAL FUND

**B**asketball great Wilt Chamberlain has a legacy in Philadelphia—and not just due to his dominance on the court. Thanks to his family, his philanthropic spirit lives on through the generosity of the memorial fund that bears his name. The Wilt Chamberlain Memorial Fund has long been a partner in Project HOME’s work, ensuring, as he wanted, that the city in which he grew up has a chance to thrive.

“We both left around the same time, but I find that being born and raised in Philadelphia—it’s always going to be your home, no matter where you live,” said Barbara Chamberlain-Lewis, the sister of Wilt Chamberlain, speaking from her home in Las Vegas “Wilt helped people all over, but I know he would be so proud to be able to be a part of this work in his hometown where the need is so evident. He was such a giving person and was blessed to be able to give.”

The Wilt Chamberlain Memorial Fund was founded in 2001 by William “Billy” Cunningham, a former teammate of Wilt’s and beloved former championship coach of the Philadelphia 76ers; Stephen Cozen, Founder and Chairman, Cozen O’Connor, whose father, Sam Cozen, was a longtime basketball coach at Wilt’s alma mater, Overbrook High School; and the Chamberlain Family. The Fund is dedicated to helping young people in the Philadelphia area achieve their highest potential. They have been a key partner at Project HOME’s Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs (HLCCTL) from its beginnings, giving more than \$1 million to support education through technology. The beautiful Wilt Chamberlain Auditorium at the HLCCTL is a central hub for student and community gatherings.



Barbara Chamberlain-Lewis and Billy Cunningham of the Wilt Chamberlain Memorial Fund

“It’s a beautiful space that is used as much as any room in that building,” Billy Cunningham observed. “It’s wonderful, and the programs are amazing. God only knows how many children they’ve helped. The building looks as good as the day it was opened. What a bright spot for that community.”

“We could see in 2004 and 2005 how great the work was,” commented Barbara, “and it has been a privilege to see the vision of Sister Mary, Joan McConnon, Lynne Honickman, and leaders from the neighborhood coming to fruition. Wonderful things are happening and it’s exciting to see what we’re going to do in the future.”

Funding from the Wilt Chamberlain Memorial Fund helps provide a safe, nurturing, and academically challenging environment where both children and adults are encouraged and assisted to achieve their potential. Weekly, more than 200 students attend the after-school programs where they use a range of creative software programs and applications—connecting literacy education to the development of core technology skills. Annually, 800 adults participate in GED training and tutoring, financial literacy classes, and workforce development trainings, all with the goal of secondary education and ultimately employment.

Project HOME is grateful to honor Wilt Chamberlain, his family, and all the partners of the HLCCTL for creating 10 years of opportunities for children and adults. Wilt’s soaring spirit extends well beyond the basketball court: Each student given the chance to learn and grow is a living tribute to his true greatness. Barbara says it best: “It is phenomenal to see dreams coming true. This work is right down his line—this is exactly what he would have wanted to see.”



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**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
- 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  
(opening winter 2013-2014)
- 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
- Community Development Corporation
- Advocacy and Public Policy
- Healthcare Services
- Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs
- Outreach Coordination Center
- Volunteer Program

**Businesses**

- HOME Spun Boutique, 215-232-6322
- HOME Page Café, 215-320-6191

**Administration**

215-232-7272

**Homeless Outreach Hotline**

215-232-1984

**Human Resources Hotline**

215-232-7219 ext. 5200

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

**NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME**



Photo by Michael Gainer

Project HOME resident Barbara Turner shows off great fashions at the September 24 Grand Opening of our new HOME Spun Resale Boutique, located at 1523 Fairmount Avenue. Our fashionable jobs initiative sells an assortment of high-quality, new and nearly new men’s and women’s clothing. It’s open Tuesday – Friday from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm and Saturday noon to 4:00 pm. For information or donations, call 215-232-6322.

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.

