

News FROM

HOME



NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME

A Relentless Hope



A resident and a volunteer from our very first emergency winter shelter in the winter of 1989, where Project HOME was born.

Chico. Hopper. Horace. Paul. Wigman. Georgianna. Marian. Ruth. These were some of their names.

They were the victims of an economy that squeezed them out, failed social policies that let them fall through the cracks of a frayed safety net. While they bore their own deep wounds – decades of addiction, untreated mental illness, the psychological scars of war and post-traumatic stress syndrome – their presence on the streets of Center City Philadelphia in the late 1980s was the sign of a deep social wound. They were a symbol of what was happening to our cities, our country. More than a decade of widespread homelessness was fossilizing into a permanent feature of the American urban scene, and with it a growing sense of anger and despair.

But we knew their names. And we knew that, despite the social stigmas that branded them as beyond help and as social pariahs, they had stories, lives, gifts, and potential. We sought to create a place where that potential could turn into reality. Many of the women, labeled “bag ladies,” had come off the streets into the Women of Hope residences, inspiring us with what was possible despite the many naysayers. So in the winter of 1989, a patchwork team of intrepid volunteers secured a small grant from

(continued on page 2)

A Healthy Society for All of Us



Rendering by Brower & Hauptman, Architects LLC

Construction of our highly anticipated Stephen Klein Wellness Center, the third development of the Middleton Initiative, has begun.

the marketplace, and does not qualify for Medicaid. Without the subsidy from Medicaid expansion (because Pennsylvania has not accepted the program), she would have to pay more than 25 percent of her income on health care, and struggle more to afford the necessary basics of food and clothing. Nearing her fifties, she has diabetes, hypertension, and asthma. She is fortunate to receive health care services from the St. Elizabeth’s clinic, but is uncertain about and scared for her future.

On a daily basis, we accompany people like Loretta who have these treatable conditions and, especially for those we cannot serve through our clinic, we watch them deteriorate, knowing full well they can improve their quality and length of life with affordable coverage and regular access to health care.

Health care has been one of the building blocks of Project HOME for the past quarter century. We have long recognized that one of the leading contributing factors to homelessness and poverty is the lack of access to quality health care.

(continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE

A Relentless Hope	1
A Healthy Society for All of Us	1
Roots and Branches	2
HOME Made	3
HOME Happenings	4
I am Project HOME	5
Spirit of Generosity	5
Mission/Residences/Services and Programs	6

Loretta has come a long way from her time on the streets and in shelters. She resides at Project HOME’s Rowan Homes, is a community health worker for our St. Elizabeth’s health clinic, and interns at our HOME Spun Resale Boutique. She is also a certified peer specialist who has intensively trained to work with other residents to make positive steps in their lives.

But Loretta lives in a health care trap: With minimal work hours, she can’t afford health insurance through

Roots and Branches: Reflections from Sister Mary

During the bitter cold spell earlier this month, with a Code Blue emergency and life-threatening temperatures, our outreach teams along with our partner organizations worked long hours, pouring themselves out tirelessly. With other staff and residents helping out, they brought people in off the streets, out of the cold, encouraging them to take the first small steps toward breaking the vicious cycle of chronic homelessness.

That's where the journey began twenty-five years ago: on the streets. Getting to know the men and women who were living on the streets. Seeking to understand the depths of their struggles. Learning to see through the harshness of their circumstances to their incredible potential.

Much has happened in those twenty-five years – more than we could possibly have imagined. Effective solutions have been developed that have made believers of even the most skeptical. A range of supportive housing options – from entry-level to permanent – with the right core of services has empowered thousands of persons to regain stability, independence, and productivity. We have witnessed lives regained and communities rebuilt. What was once unthinkable is becoming an ever-stronger conviction shared by a growing number of people: We can end homelessness.

Our theme for this anniversary year is “Journey Home: Celebrating 25 Years of Dignity, Community, and Transformation.” And we are awed at all there is to celebrate. Much has gone into creating meaningful opportunities for thousands of people to succeed: millions of dollars, from the innumerable small donors to foundations to government contracts; the magnificent skills and commitment of hundreds of great staff members, volunteers, and residents; the sure guidance of trustees; the invaluable partnerships with great organizations, public, private and non-profit. But the taproot has always been our inviolable conviction of the dignity of every person, and with it the formation of a community of persons who believe that none of us are home until all of us are home. Those are the seeds of transformation – which we are graced to witness on a daily basis.

The journey continues. Many of our sisters and brothers are still on the streets. We need to expand housing, services, and opportunity to those still in need. We need to widen our community of those working for a more just society. And we know this: Those who are coming in from the cold today are the ones who will share their gifts and strengthen our community tomorrow. And we will all know the meaning of home more deeply because of it.

A. Mary Scullion

Photo by Rodney Afienza



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

A Relentless Hope (continued from page 1)

the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Mayor Wilson Goode and his Managing Director James Stanley White provided us with the vacant locker room of the Marian Anderson recreation center.

And the men came in. They formed a home, a community, and they encouraged each other to take positive steps in their lives. Over the four short months, many went into treatment and took critical steps toward breaking the harsh cycle of chronic homelessness.

That spring, the shelter had to shut its doors, but with the men, we laid the groundwork for a comprehensive program of housing, opportunities for employment, medical care, and education. We also identified the core values that would inform all our efforts: an affirmation of the dignity of each person, and the spirit of relationships and

community that we recognized were the wellsprings from which all effective solutions would ultimately spring.

More than anything else, we learned that winter of the power of hope, the possibilities of recovery and transformation, and the reality of miracles.

This year, in 2014, Project HOME celebrates its 25th anniversary. We are amazed and humbled at what hope has birthed. We are grateful at the tremendous community that has partnered with us in developing 14 residences, more than 600 units of housing, a state-of-the-art technology and education center, a wellness center, and an array of services and programs. We are encouraged by ongoing public education and political advocacy efforts that

have helped change the social landscape and fostered a widely shared conviction that we can solve homelessness – even in the midst of growing inequality and harsh economic realities. We are gratified that, working with numerous allies in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, we have put Philadelphia at the forefront of U.S. cities making progress in solving homelessness.

And there are the miracles: Folks from the streets and folks from all walks of life and all economic levels discover the gift of their shared humanity. A culture of recovery is created, and we see beyond the social hierarchies and pecking orders, and instead make space for the amazing tapestry of diverse gifts to emerge. A relentless hope grows where once was apathy or despair. Compassion and a thirst for justice spring forth in the desert of materialism and hyper-individualism. Love becomes a permanent feature of the urban landscape.

This coming year will be full of commemorations, galas, and celebrations. We will be opening new facilities, breaking ground for others. We will be touting the numbers, citing statistics of growth, highlighting success stories. But we also will remember Chico, Hopper, Horace, Georgianna, Ruth, and so many others. We thank them for the gifts they first gave us twenty-five years ago – gifts that have magnified beyond anything we could have imagined. And we thank all of you who also share your gifts – so that the miracles can continue.

“Love becomes a permanent feature of the urban landscape.”



Scan here to read Karen Heller's December 23 Philadelphia Inquirer column about Project HOME's 25th anniversary.

A Healthy Society for All of Us (continued from page 1)

Just in the last year, we have made two major advances in our delivery of health care. First, we are strengthening our case management for residents with histories of mental illness with the new Personal Recovery Services (PRS, also called “Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services”) program. PRS works through a mobile team that helps individuals identify goals, learn and practice skills, and build supports. PRS is person-centered, strength-based, and aimed at empowering individuals to accomplish their self-identified goals.

“Without adequate health care policies, our efforts to solve homelessness and poverty are greatly hampered.”

Second, Project HOME was recently approved to become a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). The FQHC designation allows us to expand and improve our health care services to individuals and families who are currently homeless, our residents, and low-income neighbors.

Meanwhile, on January 29, we marked another milestone in our history: We broke ground for the long-planned Stephen Klein Wellness Center, a 30,000-square-foot health and wellness center located at 21st Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue, in the second-poorest zip code in Philadelphia, with high incidences of chronic illnesses, including obesity, asthma, and diabetes. A unique partnership of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Jefferson University Hospitals, Jefferson Medical College Department of Family and Community Medicine, the Philadelphia Freedom

Valley YMCA, Stephen Klein, Elizabeth Moran, and John and Leigh Middleton, the Wellness Center will expand Project HOME’s primary care, behavioral health, and health education services and offer critical new services to homeless and low-income residents – including dental care, physical therapy, a pharmacy, and a fitness facility complete with childcare managed by the YMCA.

The Stephen Klein Wellness Center, named for the lead funder of the project, is a critical next step in our mission to end and heal from homelessness in Philadelphia. It grows out of two decades of an invaluable partnership with Jefferson Family and Community Medicine which has played a key role in stabilizing the lives of people experiencing homelessness and poverty. We are grateful for the financial support of Governor Tom Corbett and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for helping to make the Center a reality.

We are grateful for all of you who have partnered with us and supported us in our efforts to foster health and wellness for many of our most vulnerable citizens. And we thank you for sharing the vision that when all our citizens have access to quality health care, we as a society are healthier. With your help, we will continue to provide quality healthcare services to our residents and neighbors, and we will also continue to advocate for just public policies that foster a health community for all of us.



Scan here for more details about the Stephen Klein Wellness Center.

Join Us in Advocating for Expanded Coverage

As we work to provide the highest quality health services we can, we also recognize that without adequate health care policies, our efforts to solve homelessness and poverty are greatly hampered. Our nation is in the midst of a heated debate on adequate health care policies – and we are convinced that our society can and must do more to ensure health coverage for all our citizens, especially many of our poorest brothers and sisters. If we want to see the day when no citizen has to live or die on our streets or in shelters, we need just public policies that ensure access to quality health care, along with a strong social safety net and meaningful economic opportunities, for all Americans.

That’s why we have been working with advocacy groups throughout Pennsylvania to urge Governor Corbett and the Department of Public Welfare to

make full health care coverage available to all citizens without slashing benefits or creating unreasonable barriers. The proposed “Healthy PA” plan was released last December by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. And while we agree with the stated goal of expanding health care coverage to more low-income Pennsylvanians, the plan falls short. The current proposal would scale back benefits for the more than a million current Medicaid recipients in the Commonwealth, while also containing new fees for participants and a job search or employment requirement.

To get involved in our advocacy efforts to enroll people in health care, contact Jennine Miller, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, at jenninemiller@projecthome.org or 215-232-7272, ext. 3042.



Celebrate the Season of Love

with HOME Made

Valentine’s Day gift soaps and candles. You can pick up these lovely HOME Made products for your valentine by visiting HOME Spun Resale Boutique



at

1523 Fairmount Avenue
or by ordering online from our
HOME Shop
(www.projecthome.org/shop)

Online orders can be gift-mailed directly to the recipient with a personal note from you!

For more information, contact
Scarlett McCahill at 215-232-7272, ext. 3075
or scarlettmccahill@projecthome.org.

HOME Happenings

◆ **While the seeds of spring are germinating underground** during these cold winter months, more solutions to homelessness are also happening underground. For the third consecutive year, Project HOME is operating the Hub of Hope, a walk-in engagement center located in the Suburban Station concourse under Two Penn Center, which provides

easy access for many persons who stay underground during the cold weather. The Hub, which opened on January 6 and will operate until early April, targets many persons experiencing long-term street homelessness, and offers an array of

Carmena Green works with one of the many persons seeking services at the Hub of Hope.

housing placement and health care services. This year, we are able to strengthen our health and wellness offerings thanks to a stronger partnership with our St. Elizabeth's Wellness Center. Hundreds of persons have already taken advantage of the Hub, which opened on the coldest day of the year. Thanks to our many amazing partners who make the Hub a success, including the Student-Run Emergency Housing Unit of Philadelphia (SREHUP), Arch Street United Methodist Church, Public Health Management Corporation, Einstein Hospital, Jefferson Hospital, and the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Thanks to many in-kind donors and supporters, including Urban Outfitters and Philly Fair Trade. SEPTA police, who are also invaluable partners, credit the Hub as a major factor in the dramatic decrease in the number of people who are homeless living in the concourse.

◆ **On January 29, hundreds of volunteers** are scheduled (as we go to press) to fan out throughout the streets of Center City and other targeted areas of Philadelphia to undertake an extensive census and survey to get information about the state of homelessness in Philadelphia. Project HOME is the coordinating agency of PhillyCOUNTS 2014, the city's Point-in-Time Count of the unsheltered homeless population. The count provides valuable information on the location and needs of street homeless Philadelphians, and is used to measure the City's progress toward ending homelessness. PhillyCOUNTS is part of the national effort to eliminate street homelessness spearheaded by the federal Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA). These counts are used to evaluate our strategies to overcome street homelessness and assists in the development

of new housing resources. By knowing who is on the street, where they are, and what they need, Project HOME and its partner agencies can most effectively target services to those that need them the most. We hope to have the results assessed soon – you can read more at www.phillycounts2014.org.

◆ **A major goal for Project HOME in this new year** is to create more employment opportunities for our residents and other persons seeking to break the cycle of homelessness. Our Employment Services department needs your help in identifying companies who may be willing to partner with us to provide those opportunities. We currently offer a PECO-sponsored program of internships for veterans, as well as internships for our residents funded by Independence Blue Cross and Janet and John Haas. Through these internships, participants receive job training and job coaching with the goal of securing part- or full-time employment. If you have or know a company that would be interested in collaborating on internship/employment opportunities, contact Jaclynn Staub at 215-232-7272, ext. 3051, or jaclynnstaub@projecthome.org. Let's work together to bring dignified work opportunities to many people taking courageous steps to rebuild their lives!



Photo by Michael Gainer



Photo by Harvey Finkle

Project HOME's Executive Director Sister Mary Scullion speaks at the December 19 Homeless Memorial Day service. Hundreds of people gathered on a chilly evening to hear a reading of the names of over 125 persons who had experienced homelessness who passed away in 2013, and to recommit themselves to working to end homelessness.

◆ **We were saddened to hear of the death** on December 24 of Rob Hess, who served as Philadelphia's "homeless czar" under Mayor John Street from 2006 to 2010. He helped draft the City's "Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness" and worked with many organizations, including Project HOME, to help decrease the number of persons living on the streets before moving to New York City to help develop solutions to homelessness there.

I am Project HOME

JENNINE MILLER

Jennine Miller's office at 1515 Fairmount Avenue might be one of the messiest in all of Project HOME. But it's also one of the most energetic. It's a nearly constant den of activity, with interns, residents, and volunteers busy at work, or with visitors popping in to catch up on the latest advocacy efforts. The walls are adorned with posters

and shirts from numerous social-change campaigns (as well as plaques and certificates signifying the many awards she has won).

A seasoned veteran who has worked with us since 1999, Jennine is Project HOME's Director of Advocacy and Public Policy. With a great sense of humor and hope, and with a tireless devotion to justice and dignity, she spearheads our political organizing efforts, which are a vital part of our mission. Over the years, she has played a critical leadership role in many important campaigns and coalitions, including a Philadelphia housing trust fund, inclusionary zoning, defending persons on the streets from criminalization,

and protecting voting rights. She has been instrumental in the growth and success of the *Vote for Homes!* coalition, which has mobilized thousands of low-income and homeless Philadelphians to vote and raised issues of housing, jobs, and services in election years at the city, state, and federal levels.

Jennine sees a big part of her role at Project HOME as a bridge: "It's important to me to link together different parts of the community – connecting our residents to politicians, volunteers to advocacy efforts, or members of the community to their rights as voters." And she is well suited to such a role: She has remarkable relational skills, and connects comfortably and effectively with people from all parts of society.

In fact, as much as anyone else at Project HOME, Jennine brings to life our value of relationships and community as the taproot of our work. "The only way we can make change," she insists, "is by working together, by staying connected to each other. Whatever advocacy or social change work we do has to come out of that."

And she only has to step out of that messy, energetic office to fuel her motivation to work for justice. "Just outside my door every day I see people who have come into the Outreach Center seeking shelter, who are still trying to meet their most basic needs. I know our work isn't done, there's still more fighting for change that has to happen."

And she will quickly add, "It's a matter of us coming together, of all of us doing our part." And there is nobody better at bringing people together than Jennine. Which gives us hope that our work for a more just society will continue to bear positive results.

Photo by Peter Woodall



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

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.projecthomeblog.org

Spirit of Generosity

In late 1989, three sisters – Josephine Mandeville, Emily Riley, and Christine Connelly – heeded the urging of their aunt, Sister M. Henrietta Connelly, RSM, to get to know two inspiring young women: a "feisty" nun and a recent MBA graduate, who were working with persons experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia. When they visited Sister Mary Scullion and Joan Dawson McConnon (at this time, it was Joan Dawson), they brought with them a box of Christmas chocolates and a check for \$100,000. It was the start of a beautiful friendship.

Joan and Sister Mary were deeply touched, grateful, and excited by such an unexpected gift. They had already spent years getting to know many men and women who were living on the streets. While they had provided entry-level residences for many of them, they knew from their dialogue with the men and women that what was needed to truly overcome homelessness was permanent housing and supportive services. The vision of Project HOME was born – and that first check from the Connelly Foundation was the catalyst for turning the vision into reality.

The Connelly Foundation has developed significantly since its founding in 1955 by John F. Connelly, CEO of Crown Cork & Seal Company, Inc. (today Crown Holdings), and his wife Josephine. It continues to strategically target funding in the community, always seeking to foster learning and improve the quality of life in the Greater Philadelphia area. Project HOME, too, has

changed since Josephine, Emily, and Christine first visited with Sister Mary and Joan. Since 1989, Project HOME has helped thousands of people find housing, job opportunities, medical care, and education. Emily, now the Foundation's Executive Vice President and also a Project HOME Trustee, has said that that \$100,000 grant was one of the Foundation's best investments. This initial gift has been leveraged many times over.

In 2010, Project HOME opened a vibrant new Center City residence, in partnership with Bethesda Project and with support from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and public and private funders. The name for the new residence: Connelly House, in memory of John and Josephine Connelly.

A quarter century after that initial investment, the Connelly Foundation continues to be an invaluable partner. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary this year, the Foundation has invested in our next step in the journey to end homelessness in Philadelphia: the Stephen Klein Wellness Center. (For more information on the Wellness Center, see "A Healthy Society for All of Us" on page 1).

The partnership between the Connelly Foundation and Project HOME is an outstanding example of what can happen when dedication to a common

cause meets strategic thinking. This decades-long relationship allows for not just increased impact, but exponential impact – all toward the goal of ending homelessness in Philadelphia.

Photo by Joy Gorodetzer



The Connelly sisters – Emily Riley, Executive Vice President, Josephine Mandeville, Chair and President, and Christine Connelly, Trustee – share a moment with actress Lily Tomlin at a Project HOME fundraiser in April 2011.



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
- 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
- Health Care Services
- Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs
- Outreach Coordination Center
- Volunteer Program

Businesses

- HOME Spun Resale Boutique, 215-232-6322
- HOME Made Products, 215-232-7272, ext. 3075
- HOME Page Café, 215-320-6191

Administration

215-232-7272

Homeless Outreach Hotline

215-232-1984

Human Resources Hotline

215-232-7219 ext. 5200

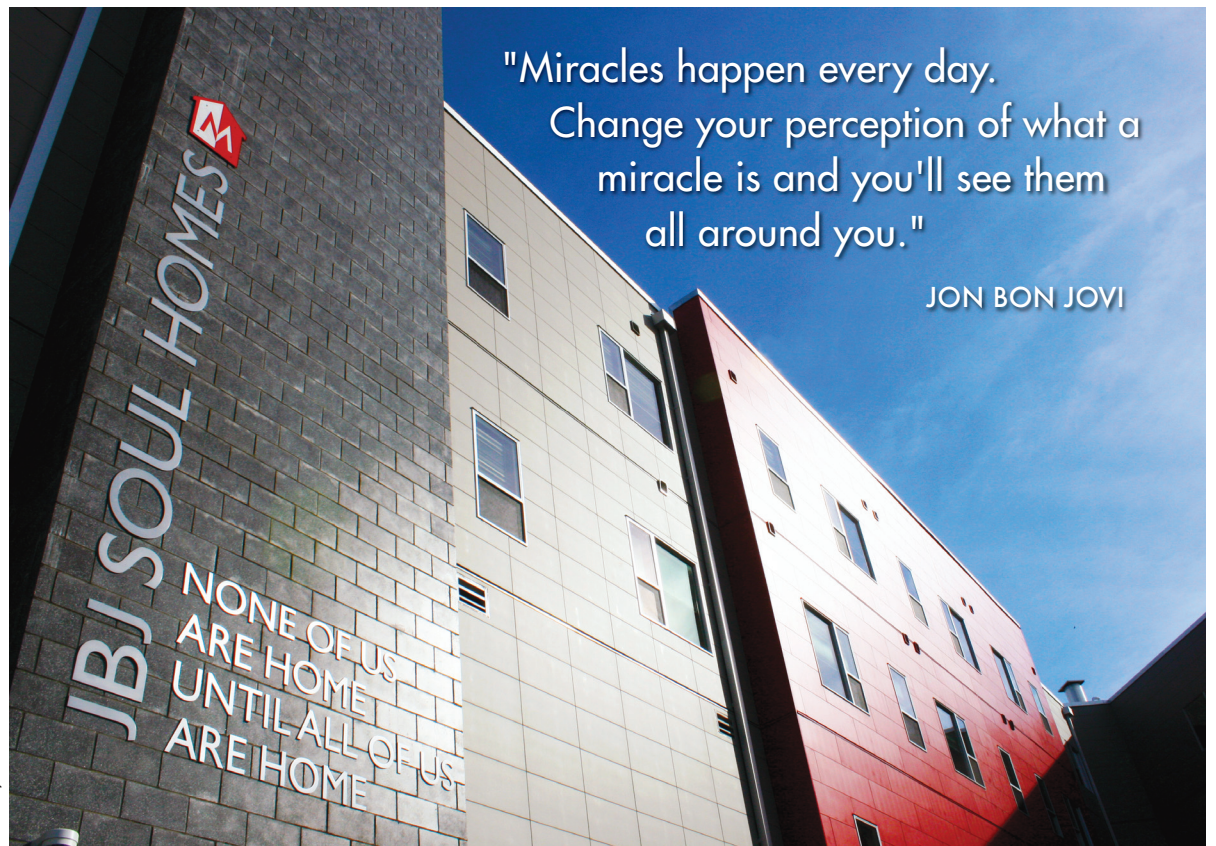
www.projecthome.org



Union
Bug

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

NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME



JBJSoulHomes is open! Our newest residence, which is the second development of the Middleton Initiative, will be a beautiful home to 55 persons. It was made possible by lead funders the JBJ Soul Foundation (founded by Jon Bon Jovi), Leigh and John Middleton, Elizabeth Moran, and other public and private partners. It is a symbol of all we have accomplished in these past 25 years and a sign of hope for moving forward in the future.

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.