

HOME

for the Holidays!

From Thanksgiving to the New Year, the holiday season is a special time—especially here at Project HOME. There are many ways to support our work and celebrate the spirit of the season, but it works best if you can plan and contact us early. Often, we receive many requests to volunteer that we are not able to fulfill. We'd love to talk about collaborations that will bring joy and meaning to your holidays! Consider what you would like to commit to and be in touch with us by **November 20** for Thanksgiving and by **December 10** for winter festivities. Call Elle Gordon at 215-232-7272 ext. 4483 or email vcoordinator@projecthome.org. And order our HOME made gifts! Online at www.projecthome/store or call 215.232.7272 ext. 3075



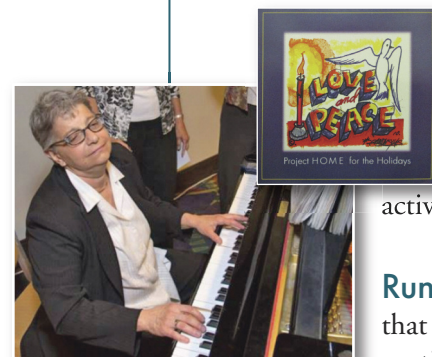
Share the table. Help prepare a Thanksgiving Meal at one of the Project HOME residences. And help us do Thanksgiving Drives by providing resources (turkeys, etc.) for Thanksgiving baskets that we can take to low-income families in our neighborhoods.

Give necessities. Help bring holiday joy and cheer to many of our formerly homeless

and low-income men, women, and children through a Gift Card Drive. We need donations of \$30 gift cards to CVS, Rite Aid, Target, Walmart, or Old Navy to give to Project HOME residents and after-school students. Our hospitality program regularly needs laundry soap, bar soap, shampoo, deodorants, and towels.



Shop at HOME. Our HOME Made Gifts feature wonderful products produced by our residents—kitchen and bath themed gift boxes, assorted greeting cards, candles, soaps, T-shirts and hoodies, exquisite holiday CDs, and—yes!—this year's batch of our famous *Sister Mary's Sinfully Delicious Cranberry Sauce!* Go to www.projecthome.org/store to see all our products, made by residents. Our HOME Spun Resale Boutique also has top-quality fashion and accessories.



Host a special holiday party for residents of Project HOME. This is a great opportunity for your group to set up, bring and serve food, run activities, and spread holiday cheer.

Run a holiday drive to collect items that we specially need in the wintertime, particularly for persons who are still homeless on the streets – including new hats and warm socks; coats, gloves, and scarves; new blankets, pillows, sheets, and towels; toys or books for children ages 5–12.

Sending holiday cards? Check out the amazing artwork by our residents in this year's holiday card collections, available online: www.projecthome.org/store.



Pack a rack with boutique clothes!

The HOME Spun Boutique is always in need of nice, sale-worthy clothes you no longer need. Host a challenge at your group or office to pack a rack with good-quality clothing donations. HOME Spun Boutique profits provide jobs and training to formerly homeless people. Contact Britney Garrison at bgarrison@projecthome.org.

Feast while you fight homelessness. Add a special meaning to your family or holiday party when you get it catered by the HOME Page Café, which provides jobs for persons who are breaking the cycle of homelessness! We cater gatherings throughout Philadelphia. Contact Nathan Matlin at nmatlin@projecthome.org



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. Crowsley 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
- Stephen Klein Wellness 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

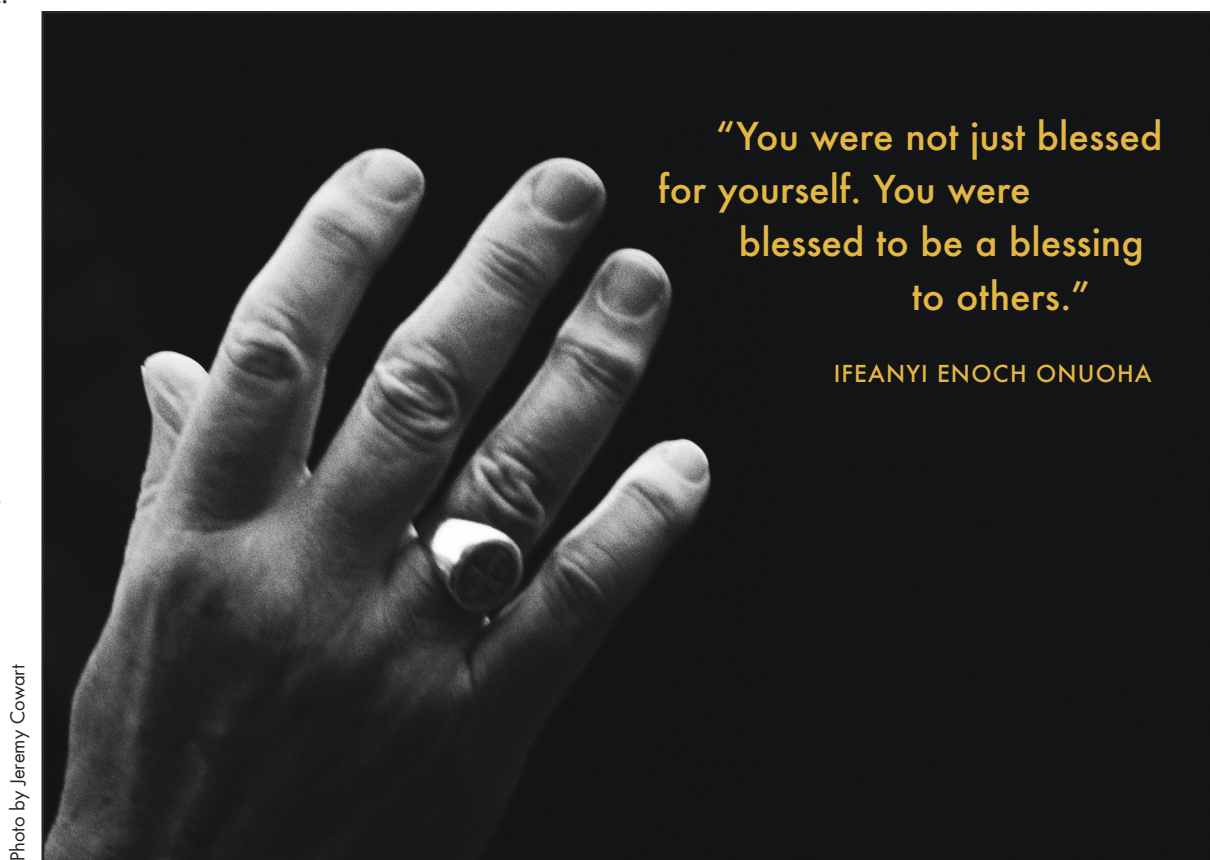
Homeless Outreach Hotline
215-232-1984

Human Resources Hotline
215-232-7219 ext. 5200

www.projecthome.org



NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME



Pope Francis's hand is raised in prayer and blessing over the Knotted Grotto, a place many of us worked, prayed, shared struggles, and joined together in the Mercy and Justice campaign.

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.

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News FROM HOME

NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME

In From the Storm: Resident Leadership



A group of our RAB leaders on a community-building retreat in Sea Isle, New Jersey.

David Brown spent twenty-five years homeless on the streets of Philadelphia before coming into Project HOME's Jay Widener Ray Homes in 2013. It wasn't an easy transition. "I slept on the floor of my new place for three weeks before I would get in my bed," he says. "After two decades on the streets, I was only comfortable on the floor."

It's a compelling metaphor. For many of our residents, the journey begins by coming inside. Once in, self-empowerment and leadership are the next challenge. "You have to want to make that transition, because it's easy to stay where you are," comments David.

Project HOME's vision is to empower every person in our community to grow in capacity and agency—residents as well as staff. It is a core conviction of Project HOME that every person has gifts and potential to offer the community.

In recent years, the growing leadership among our residents is changing the face of the organization. Our residents bring life experiences and their own perseverance through tough times. Both are powerful forces for building community within Project HOME. Their stories make them compelling educators and advocates for the general public. Our focus on empowerment also demands that our staff grow, unlearning many "staff-client" attitudes popular in the professional caregiver world.

Residents play an important peer-to-peer role in inspiring others to come off the streets. They encourage new residents to get involved in all that Project HOME offers. Most important, many grasp the recovery process, the fruit of which is an ability to forgive and to give second chances. Some have joined our staff, and are amazing coworkers.

Our residents have been on our Board of Trustees from the beginning, but a few years ago, a separate Resident Advisory Board (RAB) was created to work with our Board of Trustees and executive team. Our RAB is a great sounding board for policies and the implementation of our strategic plan. It

works to ensure that resident concerns are addressed. The RAB's last retreat in Sea Isle City was attended by fourteen members from seven Project HOME residences. These are some of our core leaders.

Yet our RAB is only one place we see resident leadership. The courage residents model in sharing extremely personal stories with the broader public through our speaker's bureau inspires all of us to be more vulnerable. The men in our St. Elizabeth's Recovery Residence (SERR) say that mentoring by peers often makes the difference between recovery and relapse. SERR has given us some of our strongest interns and most powerful advocates. "St. E's has a strong structure because we are a recovery house. A lot is expected of us. There is accountability and a focus on being honest, open, and willing," says resident Brian Kane.

Deborah Savage, program manager at St. Elizabeth's, sees empowerment as the cornerstone of her job. "The most critical part of empowerment is to help residents see and build on their gifts and strengths. They have to do an honest assessment of themselves, including the negative, and focus on turning things around."

"People with addictions have had to be very creative, intellectual, and analytical," she continues. "Here they take that gift and channel it into positive things. It's important to let them make their own choices and see that they can make the right ones. We start with the most simple and basic needs, recognizing and building

(continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

In From the Storm	1
Roots and Branches	2
Fruits of Mercy and Justice	2
Untying the Knots of the Mind	3
Spirit of Generosity	3
HOME Happenings	4
HOME for the Holidays	5
Mission/Residences/Services & Programs/Businesses	6

www.projecthome.org



Leaders on our Residential Advisory Board—Darlene Allen, Dwayne Ginyard, Bob Ealey, and Almeda Smith—enjoy Sue Smith's famous cake at a RAB retreat.

Roots and Branches: Reflections from Sister Mary

There were months of build-up, then two intense days, and now the papal visit of 2015 to Philadelphia is history. But most Philadelphians, I believe, are still feeling a deep sense of inspiration and uplift from the experience of this truly amazing visitor, Pope Francis.

We witnessed his personal acts of mercy—his time with persons in a homeless shelter in Washington, DC; his gathering with prisoners here in Philadelphia; his outreach to and advocacy for immigrants; his embrace of persons with disabilities, his warm welcome of children.

We heard his challenge—to build truly inclusive communities, especially with those on the margins; to use our political system to work for the common good; to resist the false gods of wealth and materialism; to build true justice with dignity for those who are poor.

One of the moments from the visit that left the strongest mark on me was Pope Francis's homily at the Basilica on Saturday morning. He recounted Pope Leo XIII's challenge to Katherine Drexel, our local saint: "What about you? What are you going to do?"

Those are the questions that continue to linger. And they are urgent questions. The Pope is back in Rome, and needs of our city are still with us. Countless people are still suffering from poverty, addiction, homelessness, abuse, and violence.

Several months ago, Archbishop Charles Chaput stated his deep hope that the visit of the Holy Father would be transformative for the Church and for our city. And without doubt, Pope Francis's two days in Philadelphia were profoundly moving and

inspiring for many. Seeds of transformation have been sown—but it is up to us to bring those seeds to fruition.

Since the beginning of the Mercy and Justice campaign, we were able to raise more than \$1.4 million for the Francis Fund, which will allow dozens of organizations to expand and enhance their services to some of our poorest citizens. We need even more people in our region to get involved to generously share their resources, time, and talent with those in need.

Through the Campaign for Justice, tens of thousands of people contacted their congressional representatives urging them to forge substantial policies that meet the needs of poor Americans. We need more people, congregations, and organizations in our region to commit to the important work of advocating for systemic change and social justice—especially as we enter a national election year.

The beautiful Knotted Grotto at the Basilica Cathedral, created in honor of the Pope's visit, collected well over 150,000 "knots" through which people shared their struggles. We need to learn more deeply as a community the importance of naming and sharing our struggles, which can become a taproot of real strength and healing for all of us.

"What about you? What will you do?" It's up to each one of us personally to commit to action. Let the legacy of Pope Francis's time in Philadelphia be our renewed commitment to working to end homelessness and poverty in our city. The seed has been planted. Let us now be the agents of true transformation.

Sister Mary Scullion

for advocacy. They talked to people living on the Parkway about the upcoming events and safe places to be. They worked endless hours greeting visitors at our Knotted Grotto art installation.

Meanwhile, residents at Ray Homes have become engaged in their neighborhood and are slowly changing the atmosphere of that block. They are responsible for an amazing garden and workout space created from scratch in the back lot. Recently, they helped pull together a block party and provided water ice.

Through our advocacy committee, residents host meetings with public officials. One leads a monthly movie night, complete with thoughtful discussion and popcorn. Many participate in the street counts, trying to get others inside. Our young adult leaders are advocating for young people on the streets.

David Brown reflects on his past few years: "People say what a good leader I am now. It's not about me being a leader. It's about me wanting to be part of something. I tell new residents: 'You are home now, and you need to make this your home. Project HOME has taken the first step and now you take the second. You have been through the storm. You are strong and ready. Take advantage of all that it offers.'"

It is a great gift to the Project HOME community that so many residents have chosen to do just that. It has changed us all.

Untying the Knots of the Mind



Photo by Gina Chang

Dr. Deborah Luepnitz

Dr. Deborah Luepnitz (or "Dr. L." as she is known at Project HOME) teaches at the University of Pennsylvania and has a private psychoanalytic practice. Fifteen years ago, she began running support groups for staff and residents. In 2005, with a green light from Sister Mary Scullion, she recruited 12 colleagues to offer formerly homeless people long-term, insight-oriented treatment. She calls her group IFA (Insight For All), and they tailor therapy to the needs of the patient, working in ten Project HOME sites. Sessions have been conducted in conference rooms, the analyst's office, during walks in the park, and even in tents during Occupy Philly. Some patients sit up; others lie down on the couch.

What sets psychoanalytic therapy apart from other treatments is the emphasis on achieving deeper and deeper levels of honesty—including the exploration of dreams and the unconscious. Patients use this treatment to understand relationships, overcome fears, or express themselves artistically.

Some people are surprised to learn that psychoanalysis is appropriate for those who have struggled with

homelessness. There is a stereotype that poor people aren't interested in insight, and that the best alternatives are medication and behavior therapy. Dr. Luepnitz finds this outrageous. "Project HOME residents are some of the most insightful people I've ever met!" she says. IFA volunteers invariably discover the unique satisfaction in listening to people who have never before been listened to.

Even some therapists don't realize that the original psychoanalysts insisted that their treatment be available to rich and poor alike. There were ten free clinics in seven European countries, treating farmers, factory workers, maids, and the unemployed. Freud himself was immensely proud of these clinics, which flourished until the Nazis took them over in the 1930s.

The word "psychoanalysis" comes from two Greek words: *psyche*, meaning mind, and *analyein* meaning to loosen or untie. Psychoanalysis works to untie the knots of the mind. If this reminds some people of Pope Francis' favorite painting, *Mary, Undoer of Knots*, Dr. Luepnitz doesn't mind at all!

We congratulate Insight for All and Dr. Luepnitz on their ten-year anniversary of service and healing in our Project HOME community.

For more information on IFA's work at Project HOME, see Dr. Luepnitz's lecture on our YouTube page at bit.ly/DreamOfHome.

Spirit of Generosity

JOHN AND RUTH MCKEVITT

Raised on the western side of Michigan's remote Upper Peninsula, John and Ruth McKevitt learned to thrive as transplants. They made Ann Arbor, Michigan, their home for the first half of their 63-year marriage, and Philadelphia home for the second.

John, born in 1919, grew up in Ironwood, Michigan, where his Irish-Catholic family served the immigrant ore miners and mining businessmen with a funeral home and furniture store. Ruth was born to a Catholic family in 1918 in nearby Crystal Falls. Her father, an agent for the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, served on the county welfare commission.

Ruth and John met at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. After graduation, Ruth held various social service positions, including an appointment as one of the original five civil-service policewomen of Detroit, aiding young people who had committed minor and serious offenses.

Ruth and John married in 1943, shortly before John left for Europe to serve with the U.S. Army during World War II. He was seriously wounded at Monte Casino, and received the Purple Heart. Following the war, he earned his master's degree in public administration from the University of Michigan and worked there in campus planning. Like many women of her generation, Ruth gave up a promising career for marriage and a family.

After raising their family in Ann Arbor, Ruth and John moved to Philadelphia in 1969. Enticed by the challenges of responsible campus expansion in an inner-city environment, John accepted a position at Temple University. John



Photo by Don Dickmann

believed in the transformative nature of change and the power of a big smile. A man of faith and letters, he was generous to a fault. His favorite literary form was poetry, particularly W. H. Auden and Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Ruth was an avid bird watcher and an accomplished gardener, recorder player, and seamstress. A woman of deep faith and high standards, she had special compassion for people who are homeless or in poverty. She volunteered with hospice and a soup kitchen, where she became aware of Sister Mary Scullion's very early advocacy for people who are homeless and mentally ill.

Ruth and John followed the work of Project HOME with great admiration. Upon their deaths—John at 87 in 2008 and Ruth at 97 in 2015—they left a generous portion of their estate to our work. Their earthly legacy secure in the city of brotherly love, the couple asked that their remains be returned to the Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where they rest in a forested cemetery on the banks of the Paint River in Crystal Falls.

Come to Homeless Memorial Day



Photo by Harvey Finkle

Annual memorial service for homeless and formerly homeless persons who died in 2015.

Tuesday, December 17th

Details at www.projecthome.org/memorial

Stay Connected!

Want to receive our Enewsletter and advocacy alerts? Contact michaelgainer@projecthome.org

Also, follow us on social media:



And don't miss the great stuff on the Project HOME Blog www.projecthome.org/blog

HOME Happenings



Photo by Jay Gerodetzer

Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic Church children's choir sang at the dedication.

Just days before Pope Francis arrived

In Philadelphia, we celebrated the dedication of our newest residence, at 810 Arch Street, named in his honor: Francis House of Peace (or *Ping An* in Mandarin). This facility, the fourth project of the Middleton Partnership, is a partnership with the Chinatown Community Development Corporation, with lead funding from the Raynier Institute and Foundation and the Maguire Foundation. It will provide 94 units of affordable housing—including 12 units reserved for young adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Comcast NBCUniversal and IFC Films hosted the Philadelphia premiere of *Time Out of Mind* in mid-September. The event benefitted the Francis Fund and raised \$100,000. The movie, about a homeless man's daily challenge to survive and the stigmas that surround those living on the streets, was poignant for viewers and a profound experience for actor Richard Gere, who played the starring role. Before



Photo by Comcast NBCUniversal

the screening, Richard Gere, Oren Moverman (writer and director), Dr. Dennis Culhane (a national expert on homelessness), and Sister Mary Scullion were part of a panel that fielded questions from NBC 10's Jacqueline London.

Our dental clinic is now open at The Stephen Klein Wellness Center, and our pharmacy hopes to open in January. Now it is truly a hub of wellness, with full medical, behavioral health, and dental services, health education and healing classes, showers and sandwiches for those on the streets, and a full-service gym provided by the YMCA.

Project HOME was designated a four-star charity for the third consecutive year by Charity Navigator. The rating indicates that Project HOME "adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities, and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way." Only 13 percent of the charities they evaluate have received this rating for three consecutive years, and they evaluate ten times more charities than any similar group. This rating reflects the work of our entire community—trustees, residents, staff, funders and volunteers. We are glad to say you that can give to Project HOME with confidence!



Photo by Mary Ellen Mark

Photographer Mary Ellen Mark captured this joyful moment while she took portraits of the Project HOME community in 2013.

We remember and celebrate the legacy of three distinguished friends of the Project HOME community who recently died. Photographer Mary Ellen Mark worked for decades to capture in image and spirit persons who live on the margins. Internationally known, Mary Ellen's luminous portraits of members of the Project HOME community grace the walls of the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs (HLCCTL). Ralph Roberts and his family were integral to the development of the Honickman Learning Center Comcast Technology Labs. The center provides state-of-the-art technology for residents of the second poorest zip code in the city. The founder of Comcast, Ralph leaves a long legacy of philanthropy and corporate leadership in our region and beyond. Glenn Shively was a longtime volunteer and member of our Board of Trustees. Glenn worked tirelessly on various key initiatives over the years, providing expert guidance on financial and healthcare matters – including helping to make the Stephen Klein Wellness Center a reality. His critical leadership will leave an indelible mark on Project HOME's accomplishments in perpetuity.



Photo by Jeremy Cowart

Sister Mary Scullion, Co-founder and Executive Director of Project HOME, greets Pope Francis at the Knotted Grotto.

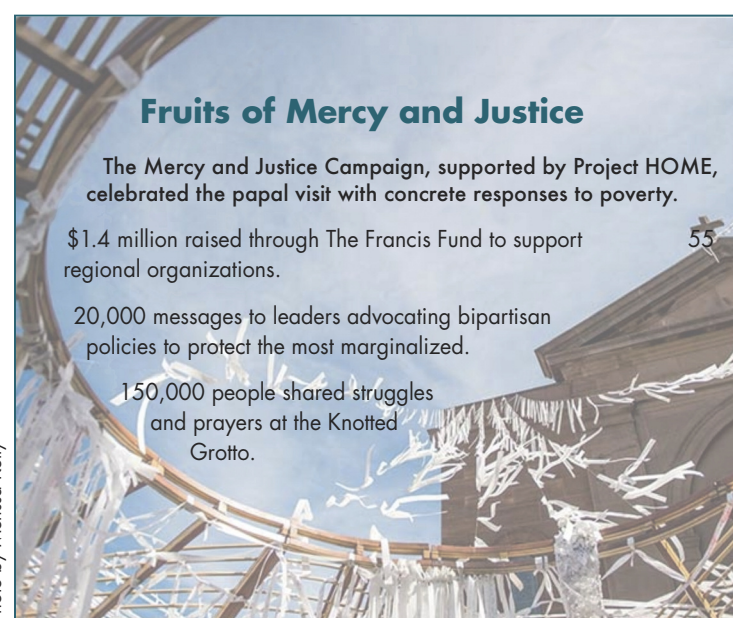


Photo by Melissa Kelly

Fruits of Mercy and Justice

The Mercy and Justice Campaign, supported by Project HOME, celebrated the papal visit with concrete responses to poverty.

\$1.4 million raised through The Francis Fund to support regional organizations.

20,000 messages to leaders advocating bipartisan policies to protect the most marginalized.

150,000 people shared struggles and prayers at the Knotted Grotto.

Resident Leadership

(continued from page 1)

on strengths. Empowerment is a process."

Resident leaders helped us surpass our goals in the recent, highly successful Mercy and Justice campaign. They canvassed the streets