

News FROM HOME



NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME

A Journey of Dignity

Lynne Collins-Prillerman knows all too well what it's like: The lack of self respect. The sense of shame and failure. The dehumanization and degradation. Being treated like you're dirt – or worse, like you're invisible. “Experiencing homelessness personally is a loss of self and a loss of humanity,” she says.

She also knows what it means to regain that sense of dignity. “Having experienced homelessness and now having transitioned to a place of being a homeowner, dignity for me is about having a sense of self and being true to who you are as a human being.” In her work as a staff member of our Outreach Coordination Center, she is grateful for the opportunity to give back what was given to her. “It gives me an ongoing sense of purpose and helps to keep my dignity intact.”

We have chosen for our theme during this special anniversary year “Journey Home: Celebrating 25 Years of Dignity, Community, and Transformation.” The taproot of everything we do at Project HOME is what we call in our mission statement “our strong spiritual conviction of the dignity of each person.” It infused our earliest outreach to people on the streets and our first shelters and residences, and today, that commitment continues to inspire every member of our community, in all of our many residences and programs.

(continued on page 2)

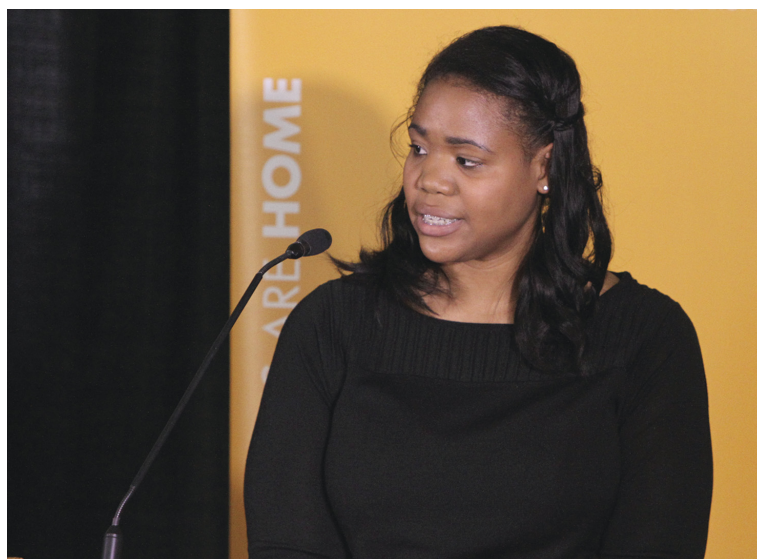


Photo by Jay Gorodetzer

Cheryl Anne Davis, a new resident at JBJ Soul Homes, speaks at the April 22 Grand Opening (see page 3).

Seeing More Deeply

IN THIS ISSUE

A Journey of Dignity	1
Seeing More Deeply	1
Roots and Branches	2
Milestones and Memories	3
HOME Happenings	4
I am Project HOME	5
Young Voices	5
Mission/Residences/Services and Programs	6

www.projecthome.org

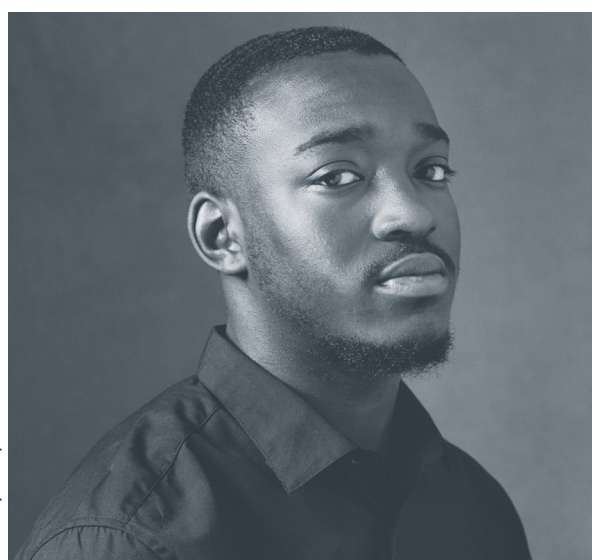


Photo by Mary Ellen Mark

Leonard Buckner is a sophomore at Bloomsburg University whose family lives at Rowan Homes.

Their faces hint of stories: A fragile dignity. An exuberance seeking greater outlets. An innocence preserved against the odds. A hard-won confidence. A defiant vibrancy. Shadows of lingering scars from a troubled environment. A determination to wrestle a future out of slender hopes.

These faces adorn the walls of the Wilt Chamberlain Auditorium at Project HOME's Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs. They are the work of the brilliant world-renowned photographer Mary Ellen Mark. Mary Ellen graciously spent considerable time at the Learning Center throughout 2013 – and the result is over 60 individual portraits of participants and alumni of both our Teen Program and our K-8 Program, as well as a handful of group shots and photos of some of the adult staff and program participants.

On March 19, over 120 community members, students, families, and staff enjoyed the grand opening of the Mary Ellen Mark Portrait Gallery, as well as the premier of the film “We Can Change the World,” a documentary on the Learning Center created by Mary Ellen's partner, the distinguished filmmaker Martin Bell. (You can see the film on our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/projectHOMEphilly.)

Building this relationship with Mary Ellen Mark has been a tremendous gift and honor for us. A native of the Philadelphia area, Mary Ellen's astonishing prowess in photography has rightly earned her world-

(continued on page 5)

Roots and Branches: Reflections from Sister Mary

As I recall the cramped quarters of that patchwork first shelter in the locker room of a vacant recreation center a quarter century ago, I can hardly believe all that has happened. Words can hardly contain all the chapters in this ever unfolding story of Project HOME – successes and failures, struggles and breakthroughs, hard-learned lessons, a little more drama than we bargained for, and always, always, those moments of grace.

We have learned many lessons over these twenty-five years. One of those lessons is that each of us has a role to play, and that this work is only possible through the contributions of each person. The mission of Project HOME can only come to life because of the diverse community of people who offer their myriad gifts and

skills and resources.

From our earliest days, our residents have been our mentors, our colleagues, and our friends. They continue to teach us powerful lessons about human dignity, about the possibility of transformation, about our best selves. And over the years, we have had so many crucial partners who have shouldered the burdens, taken the risks, and helped do the hard work of turning visions into possibilities.

We have been blessed by talented staff, energetic volunteers, committed and engaged trustees, unbelievably generous donors, all of whom have embraced this mission and given so much of themselves. Managing properties and real estate, ensuring compensation and well-being of staff, overseeing complex IT systems, managing fiscal resources, going out on the streets day after day to build trusting relationships with some of our most struggling sisters and brothers – almost miraculously, it all gets done. Countless people toil behind the scenes, taking responsibility and undertaking the tasks that need to be done on a daily basis – all with the end goal of empowering people and families and communities to break the grip of homelessness and poverty.

Ending homelessness will take all of us doing our part. It begins by simply choosing to care, to affirm human dignity, and to believe that we can build a different society in which each person has what he or she needs to flourish and contribute. We are exceedingly grateful to all of you who have shared that vision during these past twenty-five years, and helped turn that vision into reality. And we are grateful for all of you who are new to our community, for spreading the vision and empowering us to continue this work and accomplish even more in the years to come.

Sister Mary Scullion



Photo by Rodney Aftenza

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

A Journey of Dignity (continued from page 1)

The affirmation of dignity has a healing, therapeutic quality. It is a balm to the dehumanization that often accompanies homelessness, addiction, or mental illness. Even many agencies and shelters purportedly seeking to help can send subtle signals that contribute to the degrading of a person's dignity (which is why some persons choose on a given night to remain on the streets).

It is gratifying to hear, after so many years, when residents talk of how they immediately felt they were treated differently when they first came into Project HOME. They frequently acknowledge

“As we touch that spark of human dignity in those who are battered by their circumstances, we come to know our own dignity.”

the long, hard struggle to regain self-respect – and claim that the affirmation of dignity is one of the most important things they get from their experience of Project HOME.

But dignity is far more than an ingredient in a recipe to overcome

homelessness – it is something we all need. “Dignity is as essential to human life as water, food, and oxygen,” writes author Laura Hillenbrand. “The stubborn retention of it, even in the face of extreme physical hardship, can hold a man's soul in his body long past the point at which the body should have surrendered it.” We have learned that it is not a matter of privileged and well-intentioned do-gooders affirming the dignity of poor and homeless folks – it is about discovering common dignity.

As our Executive Director Sister Mary Scullion told the graduating class of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice last May, “Our experience at Project HOME is that

even in the most devastated lives, the fundamental dignity of the human spirit persists. And as we touch that spark of human dignity in those who are battered by their circumstances, we come to know our own dignity, and even our own brokenness and communal strength in a new way.”

We also believe that the affirmation of a core, inviolable dignity in each person represents a fundamental challenge to some of our deepest societal values. We live in a culture that often bases people's value on materialism and false externals. We are seduced by a subtle meritocracy that elevates some who are deemed wealthy, beautiful, productive, powerful – and marginalizes those who fail to live up to these illusory standards.

On a daily basis, Lynne Collins-Prillerman lives out that deeper meaning of dignity, and works to help those still on the streets find that spark within themselves. “When I can help someone gain that sense of self again, it reminds me of how grateful I am. When you can watch someone else transform his or her life, it lets you know that you are fulfilling your purpose in life.”

The Journey Home we have been taking these past twenty-five years is one in which we are learning to be free of false notions of worth. We continue to experience the delight and freedom that come when we touch that genuine core of dignity within ourselves and in each other. That is a journey worth continuing.



Read stories of some of our residents who exemplify and express the power of authentic human dignity.

Milestones and Memories



Photo by Jay Gorodetzer

Jon Bon Jovi joins other members of the Project HOME community in cutting the ribbon at the Grand Opening of JBJ Soul Homes.

April 22 was a day of major festivity, celebration, and community at Project HOME. In the afternoon, hundreds of friends gathered to celebrate the Grand Opening of our newest residence, JBJ Soul Homes, which provide 55 units of housing for formerly homeless and low-income individuals. Several of the new residents spoke, as did dignitaries and key funders. We are grateful to the many partners who made this new residence possible, especially lead funders the JBJ Soul Foundation, Leigh and John Middleton, Elizabeth Moran, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, and TD Bank.

That evening, over 1,200 persons attended the “Celebrate the Journey HOME” gala benefit to celebrate Project HOME’s 25th Anniversary. Part of the evening’s festivities included honoring John and Leigh Middleton with the 2014 Golden Heart Award for their leadership in forging the Middleton Partnership, an unprecedented collaboration of both public and private leaders leveraging their support to end chronic street homelessness in Philadelphia. Earlier this spring, the Middletons were named the recipients of the Philadelphia Award, one of the city’s most prestigious honors given to area citizens who contribute to the best interests of our community. Our co-founder Sister Mary Scullion won the Award in 1992. Thanks to the Honickman Family, who were the presenting sponsor for the gala.



Photo by Jay Gorodetzer

John and Leigh Middleton, recipients of the 2014 Golden Heart Award, speak at the April 22 gala.

We are grateful for all the persons and organizations that so generously co-sponsored our April 22 “Celebrate the Journey Home” gala:

Presenting Sponsors

The Honickman Family

Lead Sponsors

Citizens Bank
Comcast NBC 10 Telemundo62
Linda E. Johnson
Pam Estadt and Ira Lubert
Mr. and Mrs. James Maguire
Barbara and Robert Ryan

Platinum Sponsors

Anonymous
The Alexander K. Buck Family
The 25th Century Foundation/J. Mahlon Buck, Jr. Family
William C. Buck and Family
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Connell
Sheila and John Connors
Halloran Philanthropies
Independence Blue Cross
Mrs. J. Maxwell Moran
Raynier Institute and Foundation
Janine and Jeffrey Yass

Gold Sponsors

Marta and Robert Adelson
The Beneficial Foundation
Joanne M. Berwind
Donna and Jon Boscia
Connelly Foundation
Susan and James Dunne
Bonnie and Jay Eisner
First Trust Bank

Deborah M. Fretz
Nora and Gordon Gary
The Independence Foundation
Jennifer and Steve Korman
Sharon and James O’Brien
Kay and Jerry O’Grady
The Philadelphia Eagles
The Phillies
Aileen and Brian Roberts
Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Community
Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals
W.L. Amos Foundation
Wilmington Trust and M&T Bank

Silver Sponsors

Alexandria and Michael N. Altman
Amerihealth Caritas
The Angelakis Family Foundation
Bank of America
Michael Betz and Jodi Fiedler
The Binswanger Companies
Suzanne and Norman Cohn
Cornerstone Advisors Asset Management
Cozen O’Connor
Sandy and Steve Cozen
Crown Holdings, Inc.
Beatrice and Stephen D’Angelo
Drexel University
Flyers Charities
FlyBy Aerial Productions
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Fox

Fries Family Foundation
Nancy and Bill Giles
Gwynedd Mercy University
Anne and Matt Hamilton
Scott Herrin
HKH Innovations/The Creative Group
The Justi Group
Caroline and Sidney Kimmel
Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branzburg, LLP
Stephen B. Klein
Jane and Leonard Korman Family Foundation
The Lily Foundation
Liberty Property Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Donald McCulloch, Jr.
McDonald Building Company
Esther and Frank McGill
Lyn and David Montgomery
The Neubauer Family Foundation
Parkway Corporation
Marsha and Jeff Perelman
The Philadelphia Foundation
The Pincus Family Foundation
PNC Wealth Management
Claire Reichlin and Dr. Walter Cohen
Connie and Richard Riley
Susan and William Thorkelson
Tiedemann Wealth Management

Bronze Sponsors

Barbara and Todd Albert
John Alchin and Hal Marryatt

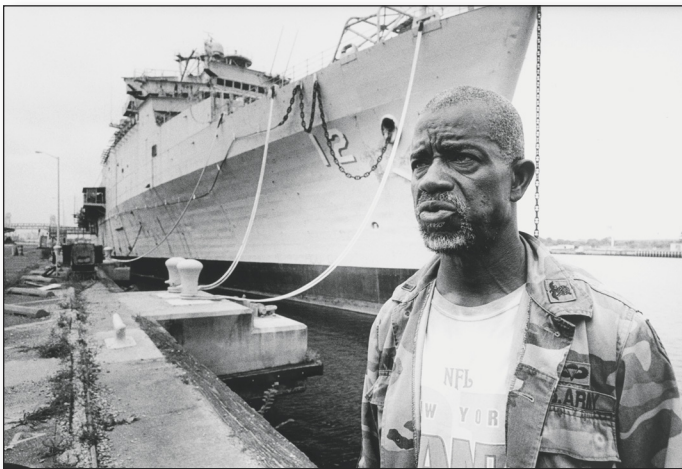
Amerisource Bergen
Aramark
Sharon and William Avery
Ballard Spahr LLP
Brandywine Realty Trust
Ira Brind and Stacey Spector
Sandy and Sid Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Burke -The Burke Family Foundation
Lila Clayman
Domenick and Associates
ESF Dream Foundation
Environmental Consulting, Inc.
Eustace Engineering
EwingCole
Jaimie and David Field
Marie and Joseph Field
Irving R. Gerber
Richard and Gisela Goldstein
Griffiths Construction Inc. and Peter Zimmerman Architects, Inc.
Joyce and Michael Hagan
Sheldon and Linda Hirsch
Hollie and James Holt
IBEW Local Union 98
INTECH Construction LLC
Loree Jones
Barbara and Charles Kahn
Elizabeth and Matthew Kamens
Sarah and Kevin Kleinschmidt
Susan and Leonard Klehr
Elizabeth and Scott Kuensell
LLR Partners

Karen and Herbert Lotman
KPMG, LLP
Deborah A. Luepnitz
Laura and Marc McKenna
Joanna McNeil Lewis
Susan and Joe Miller
Morgan Properties
National Equity Fund
Jeannie and Michael O’Neill
PECO
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency
Regional Housing Legal Services
Lyn M. Ross
The Rothman Institute
Marcia and Ronald Rubin
Deborah and Glenn Shively
The Sidewater Family Foundation
Constance Smukler
Tracey and Shanin Spector
St. Joseph’s University
Bonnie and Richard Rossello
Stockton Real Estate Advisors
Stradley, Ronon, Stevens & Young, LLP
Linda and Ian Swain, Swain Destinations
Margie and Bryan Weingarten
Ms. Leslie Miller and Mr. Richard Worley
University of Pennsylvania

HOME Happenings

◆ **This winter's Hub of Hope** closed its doors in April after another successful year. The engagement center, located in Suburban Station, provided a point of access for many persons experiencing chronic homelessness who stay underground during the cold weather. Over 750 different persons visited the Hub, with over 150 persons receiving medical and/or psychiatric evaluations. About 220 persons were placed in shelter, treatment, or other housing options. A final report on the Hub will be soon available on the Project HOME website (www.projecthome.org).

◆ **Thanks to the Affordable Care Act**, millions of Americans were able to enroll in new, more affordable health insurance plans. Project HOME and our partners worked as part of a national effort to inform people about their new options for low-cost health insurance coverage. Staff and volunteers worked tirelessly up to the March 31 deadline doing extensive outreach to more than 15,000 through phones, mail, doorhangers, and conversations in the low-income community where we work. Banita Franklin is a community member who applied for health insurance through our outreach efforts. "I am so excited I got it!" she says. "It's a big relief because I haven't had health insurance for about two years. I even have dental coverage now. I can't wait to get my blood work done. I need it. Praise God!"



Former Project HOME resident Robert Jenkins is one of the veterans featured in the "Vets Finding a Home" video project.

◆ **One of the many activities marking our 25th Anniversary** this year is "Vets Finding a Home," which seeks to give a face and a voice to veterans who have experienced homelessness, using audio stories and photographs. The project is a working collaboration between our long-

time friend and award-winning photographer Harvey Finkle and Mark Lyons of the Philadelphia Storytelling Project. Several veterans from Project HOME participated in the project, and shared their powerful and heartfelt stories. Some of the vets' stories are available on our YouTube page (www.youtube.com/projectHOMEphilly). You can also see the photos and videos and meet the vets on May 29, at the opening of a special exhibit at 1515 Fairmount Avenue. For information, contact Jen McAleese, Special Events Coordinator, at 215-232-7272, ext. 3064, or jenmcaleese@projecthome.org.

◆ **Project HOME's H.Y.P.E. Teen Program** (Helping Youth Pursue Excellence) is a college preparatory program that helps high school students from underserved communities achieve their goals of pursuing post-secondary education. A key component of the program is providing paid summer internships for qualified students. The John and Sheila Connors Youth Employment Program enables us to train and place high school and college students in organizations and businesses across Philadelphia so they can gain valuable work experience and develop the ability to support – financially and otherwise – not only themselves, but their families, in the future. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about this program or hosting one of our summer interns, please contact Giovanda Richardson, Teen Program Manager, at giovanda-richardson@projecthome.org or 215-235-2900 ext. 6307.

◆ **Not sure what to do with your spring cleaning treasures?** HOME Spun Resale Boutique is looking for like-new men's and women's accessories, including jewelry of all kinds, spring scarves and hats, sunglasses, and of course, handbags. Feel free

to drop your donations off during store hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 am to 7:00 pm, and Saturday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. Tax receipts are available. The Boutique, which provides employment for our residents, is located at 1523 Fairmount Avenue. All sales benefit Project HOME.

As we celebrate 25 years, we are proud to announce a totally redesigned Project HOME website!

www.projecthome.org

Visit our new online home and learn about our work to end homelessness and alleviate poverty in Philadelphia.

Do you want to receive our Enewsletter 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.projecthome.org/blog

Seeing More Deeply (continued from page 1)

wide acclaim and countless awards. Her numerous exhibits and publications – which have included topics such as homeless children, addiction and mental illness, and persons on the fringes of society – display deep sensitivity and compassion. (She and Martin collaborated on the powerful

“It was an honor and a privilege to work with Project HOME. The students were inspiring and a joy to photograph and film.”

MARY ELLEN MARK AND MARTIN BELL

1984 Academy Award-nominated documentary “Streetwise,” about homeless teenagers in Seattle.) In a 1987 interview, Mary Ellen said, “I’m just interested in people on the edges. I feel an affinity for people who haven’t had the best breaks in society. What I want to do more than anything is acknowledge their existence.”

But in fact, Mary Ellen’s photo gallery at the Learning Center does much more than just acknowledge their existence. She has seen what we have long seen in these young people – the shimmering beauty, the brimming energy, the spark of possibility that can grow into countless gifts for the community. These photos do what art always does at its best: invite us to look more deeply, see deeper textures of truth. They show us what our society often denies or hides: These young people are truly amazing.

As Lynne Honickman, trustee and visionary who has spearheaded the Learning Center, often says, “These children – they are our future.” Thanks to the photographic eye of Mary Ellen Mark, it is clear for all those who look: Our future is shimmering with beauty and strength.



Photo by Mary Ellen Mark

Dajisha Smith, Jayonna Gasby-Jackson, and Dana Reed are all participants in the Afterschool Program at the HLC/CTL.

Our thanks to the Honickman Family for graciously underwriting the Mary Ellen Mark Portrait Gallery and the film “We Can Change the World.” If you wish to set up a visit to see the Gallery at the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs, contact Alicia La Torre at 215-235-2900, ext. 6119, or alicialatorre@projecthome.org.

I am Project HOME

ERIC SMELSER

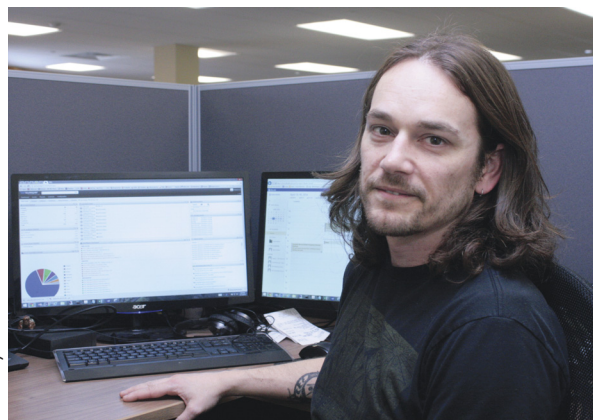


Photo by Michael Gainer

When Eric Smelser first came to work in Project HOME’s Information Technology Department thirteen years ago, the whole organization had less than fifty computers for the many residences and programs, and only a handful of staff were on email. During his tenure, which has seen him take on the role of Director of IT for the whole organization, the technology has expanded tremendously – now comprising almost 500 computers, a complete state-of-the-art technology center, more comprehensive and complicated data systems and servers, and more sophisticated ways technology is serving our mission of ending homelessness.

“I like the role of being the person behind the scenes who helps make everything work,” Eric says. And he and his three-person IT staff are in fact part of just about everything: In line with our hyper-technology times, almost every aspect

of Project HOME’s work depends on technology – increasingly so as we have grown to numerous residences, programs, and sites. Whether it is wiring a new residence, installing new software or phone systems or databases, or solving the typical daily emergencies, Eric says, “It is really important to me to be efficient, and to make sure other people can be efficient in their work.”

Eric is rightly proud of his pivotal role in helping Project HOME expand its technological prowess. He also takes satisfaction from the fact that the organization is learning to be more cost-effective and forward-looking in planning and implementing technology strategies. “I appreciate that Project HOME has a longer view of things, which includes an outlook of ending homelessness, but also includes our internal organizational needs.”

In addition to plying his amazing IT skills to the Project HOME mission, which he is passionate about, Eric has diverse skills and interests: riding his motorcycle, playing West African drums, doing yoga, camping or hiking – or making amazing pancakes for the annual All-Staff Breakfast. He is a deeply spiritual person, devoted to his church and his community – and to his two spirited red-headed daughters. We are grateful that his passions and skills have found a home with us, and we are confident that with Eric’s leadership, we will continue to use technology to empower us to realize our vision of ending homelessness.

Young Voices

These two poems were written by students in the Teen Program’s Digital Music Class at the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs.

Why Write?

By Bryant Blunt aka “B Savage”

Write to speak, write to be heard
The modern day word is the
Truth that will never be heard
The singer’s song that will never be sung
War and battles that’ll never be won
Write to hear, write to speak.
The words of many are few with competition

Bryant is a 11th grader, who spends a lot of time using GarageBand software in the music lab. He is also involved in the R.O.T.C. at Strawberry Mansion High School.

Untitled

By Mickel Lewis aka “Kelz the Villain”

Economic manipulation and human-rights deprivation

Sends folks across the nation through trials and tribulations

Truth? We all deface it, and more of us get complacent

With the destruction of humanity and the raping of Mother Nature

Mickel is a 10th grader at the High School of Engineering and Sciences.



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

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

NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME

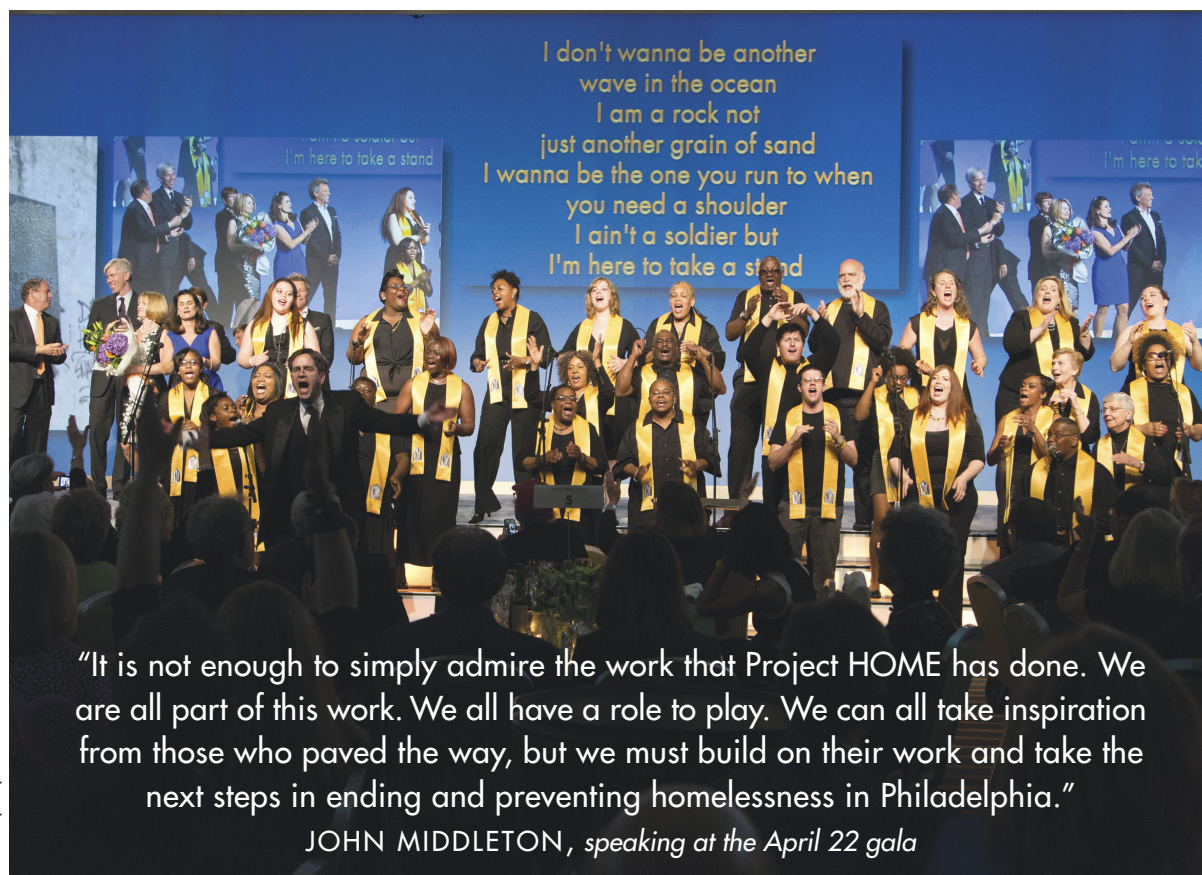


Photo by Jay Gorodeizer

"It is not enough to simply admire the work that Project HOME has done. We are all part of this work. We all have a role to play. We can all take inspiration from those who paved the way, but we must build on their work and take the next steps in ending and preventing homelessness in Philadelphia."

JOHN MIDDLETON, speaking at the April 22 gala

The Project HOME Community Choir belts it out at the April 22 "Celebrate the Journey Home" gala. Thanks to Paul Rardin, Director of Choral Activities at Temple University, for leading our choir.

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.



Union
Bug