

HOMELESS SOLUTIONS, INC.
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OUR MISSION:
 To offer shelter, supportive services
 and housing to homeless
 and low-income people.

A Beautiful Day for a Walk



HSI staff Fran Schmelzer and Kari Szary sign in walker Charles Johnson (with Benjamin!) before the start of the hike.

Saturday, June 9 was a wonderful day for HSI's 2nd Annual Hike to Help Walkathon, sponsored by Provident Bank. The walkers were energetic, the weather was beautiful, and our volunteers were, as always, enthusiastic. Participants walked a three mile route, beginning and ending at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Morris Plains, and all proceeds from the event were used for camp scholarships for guests at our Family Shelter and in our Transitional Housing Program facility.

Elaine Johnson, Director of Shelter Programs and Services, welcomed the group and officially started the hike, and, when participants weren't walking, they enjoyed music and light refreshments at St. Paul's. A hiker remarked to a member our staff, "This was great! Next year, I'm bringing all of my friends." We hope you do!

- Our heartfelt thanks go to all who made Hike to Help possible:
- our sponsor, The Provident Bank,
 - Rev. Paul Olsson and the St. Paul's congregation,
 - our dedicated volunteers,
 - our wonderful walkers,
 - the many people who sponsored walkers,
 - the businesses that donated prizes, and
 - Kelly SportsGear.

All of your time, energy, and commitment made dreams come true for some children in need. ▲

The Country Mile – Save the Date

Please join us for our 9th annual Country Mile fundraiser on October 12, 13, and 14 for special discounts and offers at some of your favorite merchants on the Country Mile in Harding. Event founder and co-chair Mary Van Kirk and co-chair Carol Conger Vellekamp have been hard at work making plans and recruiting a robust list of participating merchants, including:

The Country Store, F. Gerald New, The Garden Cottage, Pierre's Restaurant, Country Mile Gardens, Acquisitions, The Jeweler's Gallery, Bedrosian's of Harding, Coverings, Flowers from Hannah, Prince's Knoll, Noteworthy, Minuteman Restaurant, Canterbury Antiques, Talbots, Four Seasons of New Vernon, Paradise, Jolie Moi Salon, Giorgios Pappas, J. McLaughlin, The Depot/Baby Crossing at the Depot.

This year, Mary and Carol have "extended" the Country Mile beyond Harding. The Sunrise Market in New Vernon and The Doncaster Collection of Bernardsville will join to offer more opportunities for savings.

Tickets are \$12 each, and all the funds raised through ticket sales are donated to Homeless Solutions, Inc. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at participating merchants the weekend of the event. Please contact Carol Conger Vellekamp at 973.539.9531 with questions or to purchase tickets. Hope to see you there! ▲

Apple Montessori Class Makes Donation



We're happy to give a very special thank you to the 2007 graduating class from the Apple Montessori School in Randolph. As part of their graduation celebration in June, the students and their families organized a class collection of needed items and financial donations. The group made a contribution of \$500 and four shopping carts of paper towels, paper plates, powdered drink mix, and other staples needed at the shelter. Thanks so much to the students and their families for their generous donations!



News From...

Homeless Solutions

A HAND UP
NOT A HAND OUT

Volume 8 Issue 2

September, 2007

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Exciting Happenings for HD

Our Headquarters Development (HD) staff has been working diligently on its mission to increase the supply of affordable housing in Morris County and the surrounding areas. Some recent accomplishments include:



Aimee Bloom (The William E. Simon Foundation), Craig Dodd (HSI Board member), Katie Morris (The William E. Simon Foundation), Dr. Elizabeth Hall (President, HSI), Bob Boye (The Boye Foundation), Phyllis Doyle (United Way of Morris County), and Dr. Robert and Kay Zufall participate in the Abbett Avenue groundbreaking ceremony on May 22.

- Breaking ground and demolishing the existing structures at 38-42 Abbett Avenue. We will commence foundation work on twelve units shortly.
- Closing on the purchase of 81 Martin Luther King Avenue in Morristown in July. We hope to build

- four units on this currently vacant lot.
- Gaining approval from the Morristown Board of Adjustment on our application to convert and renovate a one-family structure at 34

See HD Happenings, page 2.

Capital Campaign Exceeds \$4 Million

We are happy to announce that, this summer, HSI's Campaign for the Future surpassed its goal of \$4 million. Sixty-one generous supporters (See donor list on page 2.) have donated \$4,050,000 towards this cause. The funds from our capital campaign will be used to:



- Construct affordable housing on Abbett Avenue in Morristown,
- Advance the development, renovation, and acquisition of low-income housing,
- Ensure the replacement of major equipment and the ability to make facility renovations, and
- Secure HSI's future operation.

enables us to develop scattered sites of energy efficient, well constructed affordable housing units where we provide the services needed by the homeless and working poor to achieve and sustain self sufficiency. Our goal is to repeat the success of the Jean Street Apartments in Morris Township, where fifteen families who might otherwise be homeless are now paying rent and living independently.

Call Pam Palumbo, Director of Development, 973.993.0900 ext. 20, to find out how HSI can help you "turn caring into action" by becoming a donor. ▲

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Virginia Moriarty Joins HSI Board

HSI is happy to announce that Virginia Moriarty of Harding Township has joined the Homeless Solutions, Inc. Board of Trustees as of June 2007 and will serve on our Communications Committee. Ginny has an extensive background in community service and currently serves on the Harding Township Library Campaign Committee, the Harding Land Trust Board, and the Delbarton Lay Board. She is also an emeritus Trustee of Bucknell University. When she's not volunteering, Ginny finds time to enjoy her seven children and twelve grandchildren.

Ginny joins the board out of concern for our country's current economic model related to housing. "We are currently unable to provide housing for all of our residents, and the impact is greatest on our working poor", she says. "I think HSI and organizations like it must encourage new housing models and work to make them successful."

Welcome to HSI, Ginny – we're excited to have you as part of our team! ▲



Virginia Moriarty,
Member HSI Board of
Trustees



Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hall, Dillard Kirby and Bonnie Gardner from Project Acorn, chat before the annual Kirby Family Swimathon on May 26. Over 60 swimmers, ages 8 to 65, swam over 66 miles and raised a total of \$53,000 for Homeless Solutions and Project Acorn. What a terrific day! ▲

Upcoming Events

February 29 – Mendham Junior Women's Club annual gala, benefiting HSI, at the Hyatt, Morristown.

Mid-February – Opening of the annual HSI online auction.

March 14 – 8th Annual Dream Builders' Bash at the Madison Hotel, Convent Station.

May 17 – 3rd Annual Hike to Help Walkathon, a three mile route beginning at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Morris Plains. ▲

HD Happenings

From page 1.

Abbett Avenue into two two-bedroom units.

Completing the schematic design phase of our Drakestown Road/Washington Twp. property. The next step is to take the project plan for ten units to the Washington Township Planning Board.

These efforts will result in the addition of 28 new affordable housing units in the Morris County area. Way to go HD – keep up the good work! ▲



Consider Planned Giving

Create a lasting legacy and help to ensure the future of HSI and our mission. Please consider making a bequest in the form of a specific amount of cash or property or as a percentage or the remainder of your estate. For more information, call Pam Palumbo, Director of Development, 973.993.0900, ext. 20. ▲

Campaign for the Future 2004 - 2007 Pledges

Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church

Tom and Terry Berry
Jim and Nancy Biello
Andrew Boszhardt
The Boye Foundation
Carlton and Robin Bruen
David and Barbara Bugen
Andrew Cader
Mark Castellano
Todd Christie
Citigroup Foundation
Alan and Jennifer Fournier
Craig and Anne Dodd
John and Anne Duffy
Leslie Erickson and J. Wright Witcher
First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna
Barbara and Randy Frankel
Lawrence and Anne Frisman
Ruth Frost
Neil and Lois Gagnon
Dr. Elizabeth S. Hall
Gates and Mary Ellen Hawn

Dick and Cathy Herbst
Mark Hoffman and Rebecca Davis
Hyde and Watson Foundation
Jockey Hollow Foundation
William and Betsy Johnston
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Peter and Cynthia Kellogg
Thomas V. A. and Elizabeth Kelsey
William J. and Diane Kenney
Ed and Kathleen Kerbs
Paige and Elizabeth L'Hommedieu
Robert and Audrey Luckow
Elisabeth and John MacDonald
David McGuire
Terence and Emily Meehan
Morris County Division of Community
Development HOME Investments
Partnership Program
Virginia Moriarty
Jim and Sigrid Mueller
Peter and Pat Muratore
David and Maureen O'Connor

Pamela M. Palumbo
Dr. Grant and Helen Parr
Dr. Kathryn Peper
Bill and Cindy Peskoff
The Presbytery of Newton, NJ
Les and Eileen Quick
Carole and Leo Rogers
Nelson and Nancy Schaenen
Ray and Brenda Shepherd
Martha Sievers
Harvey and Karen Silverman
William E. Simon Foundation
Katherine and Vincent Teti
Gary and Tamar Tolchin
United Methodist Church
in Madison
United Way of Morris County
Leanne Wagner
Frank and Mimi Walsh
Rich and Candace Weeks
Dr. Robert and Kay Zufall

HSI Makes More Room to Help Families and Women in Need



Susie Schub, founder and president of Jumpstart, is pictured with ceramic art tiles created by HSI guests Natalie Cray, Jennifer Giancola, Jeremiah Cray, Charlene Johnson, and artist Monica Litvany. The tiles are displayed in the conference room at HSI's new administrative offices.

This summer, HSI began renovations on the Family and Single Women's wing of the shelter to add much-needed beds. This expansion of shelter space will allow us to serve six additional single women and one extra family. HSI is adding beds to replace those lost when the Salvation Army of Morristown closed their women's shelter at the end of 2006.

The new beds will be located in the space that formerly held HSI's administrative offices. The offices are now located at 6 Dumont Place in Morristown (973.993.0900).

As this newsletter went to press, shelter renovations were scheduled to be completed in early September and the new beds filled shortly thereafter.

HSI is able to offer shelter and supportive services to more women and families in need through the generous support of the following funders: the Hyde and Watson Foundation, the Boye Foundation and the Morris County Division of Community Affairs. We are also grateful to Pfizer, Wyeth, the Recycling Ministries, and Furniture Assist for donations of furniture, and to the Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program (SLAP) for help with our office move. ▲

Volunteer Spotlight

HSI Extreme Makeover Complete

Aldena Everhart, of Dena Designs in Chester, and Connie Ford, of Memories Past in Mine Hill, recently completed an amazing interior makeover of the Family Lounge at HSI's main shelter. Aldena, Connie and several other volunteers transformed the lounge into an inviting, functional space where our guests can gather at the end of the day.

The two, along with their colleague April Shoemaker, met with HSI staff in the early spring to see the space, discuss ideas and develop a plan. They then began a search for local businesses and individuals who would be willing to help. Once they recruited Tom Boas, of Tom Boas Painting in Morristown, to add new color to the walls, they were on their way. In a matter of months, they presented our Family Shelter residents with, as one guest described, a "lovely, comfortable, home-like" space.

Connie had volunteered at HSI before, and when asked about her motivation for taking on this project, she said, "I wanted to continue to make a contribution to Homeless Solutions. It's an organization that provides for a vital basic need. I couldn't even begin to imagine what it must be like to be without shelter."

Many thanks to the following individuals and businesses that helped to make this possible – Rod Everhart, Daniel Ford, John Helwig, Erin Semple, A&R Interiors in Denville, Calico Corners in E. Hanover, Home Depot in Roxbury, and Steven's Furniture in Brick. ▲



Makeover Team - Aldena Everhart, Tom Boas, Tamala Reynolds, HSI Volunteer Coordinator, and Connie Ford are pictured in the newly renovated Family Shelter lounge.