Introducing Our Buddies Mentoring Program

Our Buddies Mentoring Program launched this summer, thanks to the tremendous work of our Housing & Community Development Network Community Intern, Johanna Roehrlich. Johanna is a rising senior at Rutgers University studying Health Administration. She was grateful for her time with us and said, “I have learned so much and plan to bring everything I have learned into future job opportunities. I was so impressed and moved by the hard work and dedication the entire HSI staff puts into everything they do and how much they care about their work.”

Our Buddies Mentoring Program matches children in our shelter, Transitional Housing, and Supportive Housing programs with one-on-one mentors who will take them for regular outings and provide them with long term social support. All mentors undergo an intensive screening process and mandatory orientation. Our first mentor group recently completed their orientation. We are so fortunate to have all of these wonderful people serving as role models for our shelter children. We are excited to welcome Kim Kramer, Aidan McGuire, Bill Olderman, Sean Russell, Chantelle Steirman and Wendi Zimmerman to the program. The orientation would not have been as successful without the help of Lisa Holck and Steve Guarino. They shared their personal experience of mentoring at-risk youth with our new mentors and provided countless volunteer hours in the development of this program. Their wisdom has been invaluable. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a mentor or learning more about the program, please email: mentor@hsinj.org

We Continue to Fight Against Housing Cuts

HSI CEO Dan McGuire joined 450 affordable housing advocates from New Jersey to speak at the 2017 Congressional Reception in Washington, D.C. The theme of this year’s reception was “No Cuts to Housing.” The impact of cuts has reduced the budget of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). The lack of affordable homes and the resources needed to sustain existing housing programs have contributed to an affordable housing crisis in New Jersey.

Accompanying Dan to D.C. were HSI participants Jillian Belgrave, Daryl Boone, and Nohemy Zabala. “We brought local residents who have benefitted from affordable housing and shelter programs. These life-changing opportunities are supported with federal funding that has steadily eroded through the years and is facing additional cuts in the FY18 budget. These advocates bravely spoke about their journey, and articulated the importance of sustaining federal housing programs at current levels,” CEO McGuire said.

Senators and members of congress heard firsthand about the positive impact Homeless Solutions has had on the community and how any additional cuts would negatively impact the work being done.

We were proud to be part of the day and have our voices heard.

See photos from the trip by visiting our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/homelesssolutionsinc

Pilot Program at HSI Transforms Lives

Governor Chris Christie and Commissioner of Labor & Workforce Development Aaron Fichtner joined HSI CEO Dan McGuire and Director of Programs & Services Wes Gaynor for a tour of our shelter and to speak candidly with our Case Managers and support staff. The Governor and the Commissioner were able to hear firsthand about the success of our recently launched Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor pilot program.

As the heroin/opioid pandemic continues to sweep New Jersey, our staff sees this struggle more and more with our shelter guests. “Although you must be clean and sober to be in our program, many battle daily with their sobriety especially when faced with the trauma of homelessness,” Wes told the Governor. “Right now, Case Managers must refer our guests to Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselors at external social service agencies where there is often a long wait for counseling, sometimes several weeks. For a population that lives day by day, this is a painfully long time and has sadly resulted in overdoses.”

The goal is to certify Case Managers from Homeless Solutions and the Mental Health Association (MHA) in alcohol and drug addiction counseling. It is a rigorous year-long workshop series followed by two years of observed field work, followed by written and oral exams.

Although we are about half-way through the training workshops, the program is already having a transformative impact on our staff, our operation, and our guests.

It starts with the classes themselves. For the first time in our 34 year history, all of our Case Managers, including our friends from MHA, are spending sustained, uninterrupted time together. Which is creating, a new, unexpected group cohesion – a common language of knowledge and experiences, shared expectations, mutual trust, familial pride – instilling a new, professional culture. 
Shelter Staff Saves a Life

Less than 48 hours after Governor Christie came to the shelter to talk about the opioid crisis, one of our shelter guests overdosed and went into cardiac arrest outside the building. Staff administered Narcan to counter the effects of the heroin and administered CPR. Senior Case Manager Osman Davies directed the response and performed chest compressions while Case Manager Elizabeth Ebeling performed the mouth-to-mouth (selflessly ignoring a broken mouth guard to do so), and Case Manager Christina Raimo maintained crowd control in what became a hectic scene. The guest was transported to the hospital and we are very pleased to report he survived. It was great to see our staff rally in a tough situation and use all their training for a life-saving outcome.

HSI Providing More Housing Solutions

Our Housing Development Group is busy! Progress continues with our new construction project at 24 Walnut Street in Morristown. The siding, windows, and roofing are already in place. With completion expected later this fall, two families will soon call these apartments home. Other projects in the works include 23 Abbett Avenue and 88 Martin Luther King Avenue that expect to be completed in 2018. Also, as part of HSI’s ongoing efforts to combat homelessness, we are under contract to purchase four properties in Morris County that will house five chronically homeless households with housing vouchers.
Riding to Make the Dreams of Two Families a Reality

Whether riding the 18, 42, 62, 75 or 107 mile routes, the HSI “Riding for Homes” bike team is making a difference in our community. The team has grown from three riders our first year to 75 now, the biggest team yet. On September 10th they rode in the scenic Gran Fondo NJ that starts and ends in Morristown. In addition to HSI being a beneficiary of the ride, the Homeless Solutions riders did their own fundraising. We are thrilled to share the team reached their $60,000 goal. They raised money to make the dreams of two families a reality – their own home! Their efforts are helping to fund the construction of our new two family home in Morris Township.

Building affordable housing is an important component of HSI’s mission to offer shelter, services, and supportive housing to homeless and low-income people. With 57 units, across nine sites, 130 people are in homes they can afford because of Homeless Solutions. These are homes to people who work in the community and make the community work… the woman behind the deli counter, the guy who reads your gas meter, the medical billing clerk at the hospital, even clergy at a local church.

“Weing part of the Gran Fondo is a great way for our supporters to do something they enjoy while raising awareness about our organization and our mission. And you can’t miss our eye-catching tie dye bike jerseys,” said Stephanie Cicale, Chief Development Officer. The tie dye theme was inspired by the goal to ride for peace, love and housing.

We are so grateful to everyone that made this a success – the riders, the volunteers, the sponsors, the staff and the supporters. We couldn’t do it without all of you. THANK YOU!

#HSI New Staff Member

Please join us in welcoming Sandra Florent, Homeless Solutions’ new Digital Marketing & PR Coordinator. We were pleased to see a resume with a familiar name land on our desk. Sandra came to us already a fan and she is putting her eight years of social media and non-profit experience to work. During Sandra’s time working at the corporate office of Kings Supermarkets as Events and Marketing Coordinator, she organized a Back-to-School Food Drive for our guests and attended our Dream Builders’ Bash. Her outgoing and bright personality is contagious and she is a great addition to our team. We would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to encourage you to be part of our online community! Be sure to like us on Facebook (Homeless Solutions, Inc.) and follow us on Twitter and Instagram @HSI_NJ. Welcome, Sandra!
HSI Seeks New Location for its Administrative Office

Homeless Solutions is looking for properties and partners to house our administrative offices (currently located at 6 Dumont Place in Morristown). Our lease will soon be up and we are looking to dramatically reduce our rent expense so that we can allocate even more of our resources towards programs and services. Someone with excess space to donate, or a steeply discounted deal from a charitably-inclined landlord, would be ideal situations. Another important consideration is staying close to Morristown to remain proximate to the majority of our properties and facilities.

Our current office is 3,800 square feet and includes a conference room, bathrooms, and ample parking for 13-15 staff and the ability to receive a steady stream of visitors. **If you have a property in mind or know someone we should contact, please call our Director of Housing, Tom Clark at 973-993-0900 ext. 15**

**Tribute Gifts**

June 1, 2017 - August 31, 2017

**IN HONOR OF**

Art Corwin's service as an HSI Board Member  
Tobi & George Goldman

Gautam Dutta  
Nancy & Rick Barrett

Tobi Goldman's Birthday  
Paula & Neil Best

Karen Grexa's service as an HSI Board Member  
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Danny & Jenna Kaiser's Birthday  
Renee & Lee Tauman

Sophie Kasson's Bat Mitzvah  
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Edmond Moriarty's Birthday  
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Jim & Kerry Nason  
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Nohemy & Alejandro's High School Graduation  
Sarah & Kevin Canberg

Sara & Jeff Wasserman  
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Stef & Rich Wichansky’s 20th Wedding Anniversary  
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**IN MEMORY OF**

Melvin “Skip” Berry  
Moretrench

Timothy MacMichael  
Robert & Mary Boehm

Len Muscarella  
Fran Henig

Why Monthly Donors are Important

Just like your family, we plan our spending based on our income.

Your monthly gift helps us plan more wisely, helping us invest your gift more efficiently and effectively.

It’s convenient. It’s impactful. It feels good.

Here’s how your monthly gift will make the difference.

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To learn more or become a monthly donor contact tanyareyes-storey@hsinj.org

A Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Monthly Donors

Robert & Mary Boehm  
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Tom & Jennifer Frantz  
Mary & Ken Hoberman  
Dion & Richard Johnson  
Colleen Moran  
Vicky & Donn Norton  
Cindy Paskow  
Kathleen Powell
Wish List

Shower curtains or dark liners
Pillows (new)
Twin sized blankets
Paper towels
Toilet paper

If you are able to help provide any of these items please contact tamalareynolds@hsinj.org

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