



Moving On Out

HSI has been fortunate to see an abundance of residents of both the Transitional Housing Program and shelter move on to independent living since July. In total, we've seen **13** move-outs in this time: **four** Transitional Housing families, **seven** single men and **two** single women. Most of these guests left with a housing voucher they had applied for while in our programs and are looking forward to a new chapter in their lives.

Our staff is elated to have moved one family, with three more to follow, into the **Farm at Harding**, which is the only affordable housing development in Harding Township. This opportunity stems from a partnership HSI established with the affordable housing developer HQM. HSI located the income-eligible tenants, and will continue to provide Case Management support within our Outreach Program, run by Sylvia Stukes. HQM was responsible for the build and will now maintain the properties. With help from Kim Sleeman from The Warehouse NJ, a local non-profit that provides furniture and household items for people transitioning from homelessness to independent living, and our trusty Knights of Columbus moving volunteers, our first family was able to furnish their new home in style!

Equally inspiring is a story about John, one of the guests leaving our Single Men's Program. John entered the program seeking employment and was ambitious to complete his housing goals. He immediately began to apply to affordable housing opportunities and within his first week, John was able to successfully secure employment. However, John was looking for more than a job and wanted to pursue a career in the medical field. With help from HSI's Dr. Elizabeth S. Hall Education Fund, he was able to apply for a scholarship and enroll in the County College of Morris' Pharmacy Technician Program.

John did not stop there. He was able to complete his classes as he held employment and saved his money to purchase a car. John was making tremendous progress when he found out he was selected for a housing voucher which he applied for while in program. With the help of Homeless Solutions' dedicated Housing Division, John was able to secure a place to live near his new job. He also graduated from CCM's Pharmacy Technician's Program and now has a career with endless opportunities.

These moves were a team effort and involved multiple departments, which as our Housing & Prevention Division Manager, Dominic Costanzo, reflects, **"Speaks volumes about the organization and our mission."**



Knights of Columbus volunteers with Kim Sleeman of The Warehouse NJ in a successfully furnished unit at the Farm at Harding complex.



Move-out day is always exciting! Our THP resident hanging her key on the key wall, signifying her move into permanent housing, as Supportive Housing Program Assistant Christy Hernandez looks on.

Life-Changing Summer for HSI Intern

While deciding her summer plans as a Psychology major at the University of Rhode Island, Samantha "Sam" Stein decided she wanted to do something that would make a difference. In her search, she came across an HSI intern request and immediately applied.

After being accepted into the program, Samantha began her experience a bit nervous and unsure of what to expect. But for her, the summer of 2022 was life-changing. She came to this realization after a 2-hour conversation with a shelter resident whom she had been reluctant to get to know. The chat changed her perception of the guest and of people as a whole. **"Everyone has a different story, a different situation and we need to be compassionate to that."**

Sam loved her time at HSI and the chance to make connections with her fellow interns, staff, and especially the shelter guests. You would often see her playing with the children at the shelter or being attentive to the residents by asking them how their day was going – simple things that can mean so much.

Sam is back at URI, but her time at HSI made her realize she wants to pursue working in this field, and definitely wants to return to work with us again. **"They've become my family and I realized what I say and do brings positivity to the residents. I've learned so much about myself in return."** HSI is grateful for interns like Sam and the impact they make on our guests.



Samantha Stein is grateful for her HSI intern experience.



Will You Give One Night?

Join us on Friday, **December 2nd** for HSI's annual ***A Night in the Cold*** fundraiser! It's the third year of our peer-to-peer fundraising event where we sleep out in the cold to raise funds and awareness for the homeless families and individuals in our community - and we couldn't be more excited to share some new opportunities we have in store!

In 2021, ***A Night in the Cold*** raised over \$180,000 for those who need it most. With close to 150 participants, it exceeded all expectations as we joined together to support the hundreds of homeless in our community. These funds assisted Homeless Solutions to help over 600 people get back on their feet last year. For some it meant finding a job or a higher paying one, and for many it was finding a home they could afford. For all, it meant **"a hand up, not a handout."**



HSI CEO Dan McGuire wants you to give one night.

We need your help to make this year's event even better! We're asking you to spend 12 hours to sleep outside in the cold. This year, we've increased our fundraising goal by **\$100,000** and we're looking for even more people to participate. There's also opportunities to make this a challenging and communal event – and for you to take the lead in making an impact:

- Become a Team Leader to rally your friends and neighbors to join you
- Commit to being a Champion to individually raise \$10,000 or more
- Recruit your boss and be a part of the 'Boss Club'

This year, our own CEO Dan McGuire will sleep outside the Wing Drive office and is inviting others to join him.

We encourage people of all ages to take part in this meaningful event - it is never too early to learn how you can help those who are struggling in your own community. Whether you're sleeping in your backyard, car or garage, making this small sacrifice to be part of something bigger can make a world of difference to someone else.



Scan the QR code to register today!

Questions? Please reach out to our Events Manager at KathleenHumphrey@hsinj.org for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities



BABYSITTING

Help look after the children while parents attend workshops and classes. Age requirements: 12-14 years (with a guardian); 16 years and over. Mandatory training.



LUNCH PREP & SERVE

Volunteers get a chance to prepare and serve lunch to approximately 25 of our shelter guests (days vary).



BAKER

Come in and bake some goodies to be served at lunch or dinner.



KITCHEN CAPTAIN

Train new lunch/dinner volunteers (We'll train you! 16+ yrs.)



KITCHEN CLEANER/ORGANIZER

Our shelter guests do the dishes but we need someone to come 1-2/week to clean the kitchen and organize our pantry.



RUN A DONATION DRIVE

Help us cross off the items on our "Wish List" and organize a donation drive. Check in with us for our current needs list and the drop off details.

INTERESTED IN HELPING?

Contact Volunteer Manager at TamalaReynolds@hsinj.org



BREAKFAST ITEMS:

- Cold cereal
- Breakfast bars
- Honey
- Sugar
- Creamer
- Granola bars
- Carnation Breakfast Essentials
- Hot chocolate

PANTRY ITEMS:

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Heavy duty paper plates
- 8 oz foam cups
- 5 oz plastic cups

OTHER:

- Bed pillows (must be new)
- Towels (in good condition)
- Twin sized blankets (in good condition)

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

Successful Pilot Program for Overnight Center

Maybe you've heard of a Code Blue Alert? This is issued when temperatures drop below freezing and conditions pose a danger to the homeless population. Recently municipalities have also seen the need to issue Code Red Alerts in the summer months when the heat index rises to extreme temperatures.

Thanks to our Next Level Shelter Expansion project, the space used for our seasonal Winter Warming Center was piloted to serve street homeless guests during the hot summer months. Between May 1st and September 5th of this year (the contracted pilot dates with Morris County), HSI was able to provide temporary shelter to 73 unduplicated guests, who were allowed to stay a maximum of three nights in a row. The renovated space now includes private bathrooms and showers, laundry facilities and personal storage lockers for guests.



Our Emergency Services Coordinator, Kamille Freitas, a steady presence in the pilot program this summer, focused on getting to know the guests and their stories. She diligently tracked utilization of the Overnight center, while also surveying the guests' experiences. As a result, 25% of participants transitioned into our structured Sheltered Program that is drug and alcohol free, and are making steps necessary to address the issues that caused their homelessness. We are encouraged by what we learned from this pilot and look forward to implementing these findings as we gear up for the Code Blue season which starts on Dec. 1, 2022.

Kamille Freitas, Emergency Services Coordinator, getting the Overnight Center ready for the winter season.

Making an Impact Beyond Program

With the excitement of Shelter and Transitional Housing residents moving on to independent living, comes the importance of making sure they can sustain their new living environment. For Sylvia Stukes, this significance is what drives her to excel at her job each day. Sylvia is the Housing Retention Specialist at HSI, a vital role in our organization where she provides support systems to help keep our families and individuals housed once they graduate from our Shelter and/or Transitional Housing Programs.

You can say she's been extremely busy with the number of move-outs HSI has experienced over the past few months!

For many clients moving to their own apartment is extremely frightening because some have never experienced that before. **"It's important to ensure our clients know that we're still here for them (after they leave our programs) for information, resources and moral support."**

Having been with HSI for over 14 years, Sylvia has held different roles, starting as a Residential Support Staff member. One experience she had with a client threatening her own life greatly impacted the way she utilized her social work training and helped her gain the confidence she needed in her role. She was able to successfully help the client, who didn't follow through with the threat and got the help she needed.

Sylvia's good-natured and compassionate personality has also led her to recently take on a role at the Mt. Kemble Home for senior women. She is helping to enhance the quality of life for the residents by addressing concerns or accessing additional services (she recently helped a resident obtain her birth certificate so she could apply for an assistance program). Sylvia is also available to help resolve issues or conflict in the communal living environment at the Home. We know Sylvia will be busy with so many residents to connect with!

Prior to coming to HSI, Sylvia had no experience or knowledge of working at a homeless shelter. **"Now I have a passion and a great appreciation for working with and helping the homeless. I have challenged myself and my son to periodically feed the homeless outside of work."** Thank you, Sylvia for your ongoing commitment to our mission.

OVERNIGHT CENTER 2022

May 1st - September 5th



PARTICIPANTS

73 unduplicated participants
25% went into one of our long-term shelter programs

BED COUNT

Bed Capacity: 14
Bed Nights: 1,399 nights
Utilization Rate: 82%



MEALS SERVED

2,789 meals

GUEST SATISFACTION

Overall Experience: 64% Excellent/Good
Security: 77% Excellent/Good
Cleanliness: 77% Excellent/Good



Housing Retention Specialist Sylvia Stukes has been a positive and resourceful HSI employee since 2008.

Meet our Newest Trustees



SCOTT CHILSON

When it comes to HSI, it's been nothing short of a family affair for Scott. Both Scott and his wife Janine have been HSI supporters for years, cooking many dinners for guests, participating in

(and sitting on organizing committees for) our fundraisers, and donating their time and more to the shelter. **"Cooking dinner has been the most impactful for me. Meeting so many of the guests, seeing how much HSI is doing to help their situations and how grateful they are to have this opportunity to get back on their feet."**

When Scott speaks about HSI, he stresses that first-hand experience is the best way to understand how significant homelessness is in our community: **"I explain the "hand up, not a hand out" concept. And honestly, bringing them to the shelter to serve dinner or volunteer is more inspiring than anything I can say. Meeting the HSI team and guests is hugely inspiring!"**

Scott spent many years working in the pharmaceutical field in strategic business and customer experience positions, and is now utilizing these skills as a consultant to senior executives. He is a graduate from the University of New Hampshire Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics. Scott will bring his years of first-hand experience at HSI to the Board, in particular to the Development and Finance committees he'll be serving on. Welcome, Scott!



NURIS PORTUONDO

Inspired by the work her friend and current Board of Trustees member Sally Mulligan was doing with HSI, Nuris knew she wanted to make an impact in her community. After cooking and serving

lunch with her mother at the shelter she knew HSI was the place where she could make a difference. **"The humanity of HSI's mission is what drives my engagement."** Nuris is excited to dive into her role, with a particular interest in the work HSI does to provide a "hand up" with continued housing programs beyond the shelter.

When reflecting on the volunteer work she's done, Nuris sees each experience as having a great impact on her. **"All (volunteer) shelter experiences are a sign of our humanity and compassion, even the ones that are most challenging."**

Nuris is an Executive Director Legal at J.P. Morgan Chase Bank. She is an alum of Purdue University and the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University and brings her experience of previously serving on Boards for other local nonprofit organizations to our HSI Board. She will serve on our Housing Development and Programs & Services committees and we're excited to have her knowledge and compassion on our Board. Here's a fun fact about Nuris: she also serves as the President of the Essex County Wine Society! Cheers, Nuris!



MARC STEINMAN

Marc spent a lot of time volunteering when he was younger, and after building a career and family, saw the opportunity to once again give back to the community. When Marc

was looking for a nonprofit to work with through the organization BoardLead, HSI immediately stood out to him: **"I appreciated that there was a focus on creating safety and stability for people while respecting their dignity to help them build their best lives."**

After touring our different facilities, he knew HSI was the right fit. He was particularly moved by his first time cooking at the shelter and was inspired by the stories of the guests he got to meet. **"Having one-on-one conversations with residents while serving dinner was wonderful for me."**

Marc is currently Vice President of Global Safety and the Environment for Merck, with an undergrad degree from Carnegie-Mellon University and MBA from Rutgers University. He'll be bringing his enthusiasm for volunteerism to the Housing Development and Programs & Services committees and we're so happy to have him on board. Welcome, Marc!

Tribute Gifts (February 22, 2022 - September 30, 2022)

IN HONOR OF

Joan Ann
Kathleen Cipriani
Lou Bodian
Suzanne Broyde
Sarah Canberg
Jennifer & Brandon Bush
Natalie Cipriani
Kathleen Cipriani
George Goldman
Paula & Neil Best
George & Tobi Goldman
Adam Buchsbaum & Mary Fernandez
Matt Graf
Mike & Lisa Heller
Msgr. John Hart's 40th Anniversary of being Ordained
Art & Ann Corwin

Stephanie Hauge's Birthday
Stephanie & Sal Cicale
Christina Manning
Greg & Cheri Manning
Marc Pickard
David Maayani
Tamala Reynolds
Willie Sallie
Steve Schroeder
Stephen & Kirsten Neville
Anneliese Staiger
Sharlene Asato & Christopher Sullivan
Carlos Fermin
Margery Gering Feinberg
Myra & Jack Gibson
Ilene & Barry Silverman
Roberta & Joshua Weinreich
Sandy Stiles' Birthday
Mary & Glenn D'Amore

Jason Weitzman
Elie Weitzman
Megan Young
Sharon & Barry Cook
Stephen & Kirsten Neville

IN MEMORY OF

Renee Brannigan
Art & Ann Corwin
Gautam Dutta
Nancy & Rick Barrett
Raymond Johnson
Elaine & Charles Johnson
Susan & Mark Robinson
Barbara Ward
Nancy M. Lifland
Mary Carney
Eunice M. Lynch
Andrea Ingalls

David McGuire
Barbara & Burton Aaronoff
Bruce Anderson
Ray Bersch & Carol Friend
Kurt Buchholz
Sarah & Kevin Canberg
Stephanie & Sal Cicale
Art & Ann Corwin
Michelle Doyle
Sarah Duncan
Brenda & Bruce Duncan
Sally Fullman
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Ryan & Sunny Spencer
Darla & Fred Wilkinson
Sherri Young
Wendi & Pete Zimmerman
Andrea Onorato
Chris & Audrey Onorato
Neal Sandford Weitzman
Elie Weitzman
Amy Yapaola
Lorraine & Robert Rodriguez

Our Mission: To offer shelter, services, and supportive housing to homeless and low income people.



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