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# Open Doors

## The Housing Transitions newsletter • Spring 2024

**T** This year marks the 40th year of Housing Transitions serving Centre County. Our programs provide shelter, address root causes of homelessness and offer guidance to find long term housing solutions for Centre County residents in need. Over the last 40 years we have helped our clients work toward a stable future by providing a continuum of ever expanding services.

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we would like to say thank you to the Centre County community for supporting us over the years. Because of your support, everyday we help families be able to stay together, feel safe and comforted in knowing they are supported in our Centre House shelter. We will continue to work toward achieving our goal of ENDING HOMELESSNESS in Centre County.

*Morgan Wasikonis*

### Housing Transitions Dates for 2024

**MAY 8/9** **May 8-9**  
 Centre Gives from 8am on May 8th to 8pm on May 9th \*\*36 hours of excitement\*\*

**MAY 9** **May 9**  
 Centre Fest at Talleyrand Park. Come join us and pick up a Tanager set to enjoy.

**MAY 15** **May 15**  
 40th Anniversary Celebration and annual meeting at University Wine Company.

**JUN 8** **June 8**  
 Pride Parade beginning at 10am! Housing Transitions will be in the parade! Come on down and get some goodies.

**JUL 4** **July 4**  
 4th Fest Parade beginning at noon! Housing Transitions will be in the parade! Come see us.

**OCT 19** **October 19**  
 Boots, Band and Barn 2024, 6-10pm

### YES, I'd like to help Housing Transitions end homelessness in Centre County!

- Contribution**
- \$500     \$50  
 \$250     \$25  
 \$100     other \$ .....

**To pay by check**  
 Make check payable to Housing Transitions and return with this form to:  
 Housing Transitions  
 PO Box 1391  
 State College, PA 16804

**To donate online**  
 Visit [www.HousingTransitions.org/Donate](http://www.HousingTransitions.org/Donate)



Name(s)			
Address		State	ZIP
City			
Phone			
Email			

*Thank you for helping to build a better future for our community!*



housingtransitions.org





# A Word from Our Client

would help with the kids and I could save money.”

“Centre House is a great place for families,” she elaborated. “It’s very clean and they help you through the journey to get things done. The girls liked it a lot.” Rosie worked hard. She had a job and completed the chores required of Centre House residents, and attended the nightly Life Skills Training classes. She felt like she had access to what she needed to get on her feet and gain housing stability.

She was in our Rapid Rehousing program for a couple of months, and then secured a housing choice voucher and an apartment that was newly renovated, and located close to schools and downtown State College. The girls love having a home of their own and are thriving at school. They have friends and participate in many activities and they feel much safer.

Rosie was able to access several programs and services once she was part of our housing continuum. She received food from the State College Food Bank, and Interfaith Human Services helped her with all the furniture for the apartment. St Vincent DePaul helped with her car insurance and provided gas vouchers. She came here with very little and is now building a strong, more stable future for herself and her daughters.

“I never wanted to put my kids in that situation, but they liked it. Everyone is so nice and helpful. Mentally it made it much easier on me.” These are words from Rosie, who was worried about coming to our Centre House Homeless Shelter with her two teen daughters. She found the supportive environment to be just what she and the girls needed.

Rosie found herself in a difficult situation when she and her adult daughter decided to rent a place together in the Philly area. The owner of the property then decided to sell the place and left them with little time to find a new home to rent. A period of housing instability began, leading to staying with different friends, family members, and in hotels. As a result, her daughters enrolled in online school to ensure they could complete their studies wherever they were. Plus, Rosie did not

feel they were safe to attend schools in the places they were staying.

In December of 2022, she was invited to move back to State College to live with an aunt. She had lived here 12 years ago before returning to the Philadelphia area so

**Everyone is so nice and helpful. Mentally it made it much easier on me.**

she was familiar with the town. After about 8 months, the landlord told them they could no longer stay with the aunt. That’s when Rosie reached out to Housing Transitions.

“I was starting a new job and looking for stable housing,” Rosie explained. Even though she was reluctant to bring the children to a shelter she found the support she needed. “In the interview they said they



Far left: Two awesome Girl Scouts earned their silver award by making a children’s entertainment corner for our great room.

Left: An energetic group of Penn State first year law students painted our great room and a bathroom.

Above: Saint Joseph’s students did a major yard clean-up for Centre House.

# Rapid Rehousing Program

Housing Transitions helps individuals who are experiencing homelessness through a multitude of programs. One of those programs is the Rapid Rehousing program. This program uses the Housing First Model and aims to make a person’s length of time of homelessness brief. Our case managers work with both individuals and families who need assistance getting into stable affordable housing. For many of these clients it is their first time being homeless and they can be overwhelmed with knowing exactly where to start. That is where Housing Transitions steps in. The case manager meets the client where they are. They work together to set goals and a budget while also searching for suitable

affordable housing. These individuals are almost always starting from scratch. They need to rebuild everything from kitchen dishes to a bed to sleep on. Through partnerships with agencies in the Centre Region, Housing Transitions is able to help them with the many things that people forget goes into living in a place of their own. Towels, Blankets, microwaves and toasters all come from residents and agencies within our local community.

Rapid Rehousing has the ability to pay first month’s rent and security deposit as well as ongoing financial assistance for a period of time determined by the client’s circumstances. During that time case managers work closely with clients to

reach their individual goals, increase their income or obtain long term stability through housing choice vouchers and rental subsidies offered by select affordable properties.

While this is not always an instant fix to the many factors that lead people to our doorstep, it is most certainly a safe and supportive place to land. If you would like to know more about how you can play a part in helping someone start over please reach out to Housing Transitions.

**Centre House Wish List**  
All-purpose cleaner, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, and CATA bus tokens

## Centre Gives

Centre Gives is a special time in Centre County! Housing Transitions was fortunate to receive \$57,072 during Centre Gives 2023. Our team feels the support from the community, and it propels us forward in our quest to **End Homelessness** in Centre County. Thank you for your donations each year. Let’s make 2024 our best year yet!!!

**Centre gives**  
May 8-9, 2024



*Details of the event:*

- Music by Hops and Vines
- Complimentary food by FloBros Pizza
- Complimentary drinks by University Wine Company
- Program begins at 6:00pm

*We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating together!*

RSVP to Amy Werner at [awerner@housingtransitions.org](mailto:awerner@housingtransitions.org)