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For the most up to date
 news at Housing
 Transitions, follow us on
 social media or visit us at
www.housingtransitions.com

With Gratitude!

During our Annual Meeting, on May 20, Ron Quinn made a special presentation to Benson Lichtig and Kathy Harford who are retiring from the board after many years of service. Both have dedicated decades to our mission and we thank them for all their hard work. They were presented with framed photos of the Centre House homeless shelter. Thank you very much Benson and Kathy!



Staff Changes

Since our last newsletter, we have bid a fond farewell to Kendra Hicks and Ainsley Rager, who were long time housing case managers for Centre House. We have welcomed Amanda Gentzel and Cassandre Augustin in their places. They have made the transition for Centre House residents seamless and we are grateful for their assistance in continuing our mission.

Housing Transitions Thanks...



...City Serve
 We received some extra special support through City Serve, and a Cavalry Baptist Bible study group this spring! With coordination of the BHL Partnership, through Gary Bontrager, and George McMurtry of America's Carpet Outlet, Centre House homeless shelter received a renovated bathroom, a new floor in the basement hallway and bedroom, new entryway flooring, and doors installed on the conference room. A lot of little projects turned into a huge project, and residents and staff at Centre House are extremely appreciative. In addition, three Penn State students came to paint the second floor hallway on City Serve day in April. We can't thank you all enough!

...Penns Valley Intermediate School



A group of 5th and 6th grade students at the Penns Valley Intermediate School created a homeLESS project that included a coin battle and collection of food and supplies for area homeless shelters and food banks. They collected over \$3000 and cartloads of supplies! A check for \$1017 was donated to Housing Transitions!

...Mount Nittany Middle School

About 25 eighth grade students, along with their teachers Ms. Anderson and Ms. Duffy, welcomed Jennifer Stahl and Morgan Wasikonis to their ROAR class in early May. The students heard about homelessness in Centre County and asked great questions in an attempt to understand the issues. They had been collecting many of the items on our wish list and donated the supplies to HTI, and Hearts for Homeless!

...The Junior Woman's Club



Marisa Shamrock, President, Shea Winton, Treasurer, and Susan McWhirter, Vice President, of the State College JWC presented Morgan Wasikonis with a check for \$7350 for their fundraising efforts for HTI over the past year. Thank you for all your hard work!



...Centre Gives
 Thanks to all who contributed to the Centre Gives 36 hour online donation campaign organized by the Centre Foundation. Nearly \$18,000 was raised for Housing Transitions during the event! Thanks to Clothes Mentor and our development committee who hosted a ladies night during the event.

2nd Annual Tastes & Treasures



The 2nd Annual Tastes & Treasures fundraiser was held on May 3 at Seven Mountains Wine Cellars. Roger Snyder of Apple Hill antiques provided appraisals of treasures people brought from home. Tammy Miller, of Tammy Miller Auctions, entertained guests with a live auction. Music was provided by Richard Wylie and delicious tastes were offered by local caterers including Brown Dog Catering, M&C Cakery, Paul's Provisions, and Village Eatinghouse. The event was sponsored by 3WZ, Progress Development Group, Mark Wasikonis of Wienken Wealth Management, Mary Lou Bennett of RE/MAX, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Nelson, Neslterode and Loy, Clothes Mentor, Doty & Hench, Greenhills Village, Pinehurst Homes, Goin' Postal and Jezebel's. Thank you to all participants and sponsors. Next year's event will take place on April 24, 2016. We hope you can join us!

....Sigma Phi Epsilon

Members of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, with coordination from Peg Hambrick planted lovely flowers in the boxes in front of Centre House. They really brighten up the place!



...The Friedman Family Foundation
 The Friedman Family Foundation awarded a grant to purchase new headboards and dressers for the resident rooms at Centre House. In conjunction with the THAW State Day of Service 2015, Penn State student members of the Intrafraternity Council moved all the old dressers out, then installed the new headboards and set up the new dressers.

...Girl Scouts

Members of a Girl Scout troop based in Easterly Parkway delivered paper supplies and girl scout cookies to Centre House homeless shelter! They attentively listened to staff talk about the shelter and the services provided by Housing Transitions.





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www.housingtransitions.com

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A Newsletter of Housing Transitions, Inc.

Shelter Wish List

For groups and individuals who wish to donate items needed at Centre House, here is a list of needs. Please call 237-4863 with any questions.

- Quarters for laundry and/or bus fare
- Gift cards to Wal-Mart or Target (for personal care items)
- Gas cards
- Bus tokens
- Feminine hygiene products
- Kitchen garbage bags
- Printer Cartridges: HP Laser 125A-colors: black, magenta, cyan and/or yellow
- Day planners (personal calendars)
- Lined Paper Notebooks
- Alarm Clocks
- Paper product supplies like toilet paper, tissues, and paper towels
- Dish detergent
- White security envelopes
- Irons
- Flat sheets

Yes, I'd like to help!



Help us to continue our work. Every gift makes a difference.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift to HTI's Annual Fund:

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 Other: _____

☐ CHECK enclosed (payable to HTI) or

☐ Please charge my ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature (required) _____

Date _____

► You may mail this form to the address above, or donate online at

www.housingtransitions.com.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of those needing shelter!

Save the Dates!



August 13-14, 2015

(August 13 welcome dinner, and
Red Solo Cup Challenge)

Penn State Golf Course

Housing Transitions is both honored
and delighted to be one of two bene-
ficiaries of this year's Golf Classic.

For more information about how you
can help, donate, sponsor, or
participate, please visit:

www.jbgriffinfoundation.com



November 7.

2015 at 9am

Join us for the 4th
Annual Run for
Shelter 5K. Details
coming soon at:

www.housingtransitions.com

Helping Young People Understand Homelessness

Homelessness is a complicated issue. There are many unique reasons why people may not have a safe permanent home. Some of them are situational and short term, and some are much more complicated and can be related to long running cycles of poverty, substance abuse, or lack of resources. The issues are very difficult to understand for adults, but even harder for children.

Over the past few months, members of our staff have had the opportunity to speak to a number of groups of young people about homelessness in our area. We hope they have deepened their understanding and opened their minds and eyes to this often hidden problem. You can read more about them in our "Thank You" section.

One group was at the Mount Nittany Middle School. After students collected tables full of supplies for Housing Transitions and Hearts for the Homeless, an area day shelter, their teachers invited us to speak with the students since many of them were surprised that this is an issue in Centre County. They learned that Housing Transitions helps over 2000 people a year who are facing a housing crisis. Centre House, our homeless shelter, provides a safe and secure place for 70-100 people a year to call home. They were shocked to learn that Centre House serves families and individuals, and that about 1/3 of the clients are children. They were most surprised to learn some other key points we have learned to emphasize while helping young people understand homelessness, poverty, and food insecurity:

1. You can't tell if a person is homeless just by looking at them.
2. You might know someone who is homeless, but not know it.
3. People without shelter are from all ages, genders, races, and backgrounds.
4. Just because someone has a job does not mean they can afford a house.
5. People want, and need to be able to live close to jobs, because transportation is expensive too.
6. People facing a homeless crisis really appreciate when people in the community help out.

As we say at Housing Transitions, we've been providing shelter, guidance and hope since 1984. The Centre House shelter and transitional housing provide shelter, and housing case management provides guidance. However, it is the community support for our programs, which can even come from area youth, that helps provide the hope!