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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

Run for Shelter



Above, start of the 3rd Annual Run for Shelter. Below, students and staff of Delta High School who were recognized for a high number of participants.



The 3rd Annual Run for Shelter 5K, presented by Northwest Savings Bank was run on a cold, but bright fall morning on November 8. The race started and ended at Centre House, our emergency shelter and beneficiary of proceeds. Over 200 runners registered and race results can be viewed by visiting the special events page on our website.

We thank our many sponsors, volunteers, and race participants. Together we raised over \$11,000 for Centre House. Park Forest Middle school won our first Middle School Challenge and we hope to expand the competition for next year.

Elves Gift Shop

This year marked the last of two consecutive years in which Housing Transitions was the beneficiary of the Junior Woman's Club Elves' Gift Shop. It has been a super fun partnership and we greatly appreciate all the time and effort the "Juniors" put into making this unique event a great success. The day, filled with a



cookie walk, and opportunities for young children to shop without their parents raised over \$6000 for HTI. Pictured above are volunteers from Penn State Habitat for Humanity and to the left are Junior Woman's Club members and Girl Scouts who helped the little shoppers.



Housing Transitions Thanks...



...Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Good Shepherd's Shout! youth ministry program hosted 30 area teens for the 4th Annual Sleep Out Saturday on October 4. This was the third year participants raised funds and awareness for Housing Transitions. The event contributed nearly \$2500 to HTI and we are greatly appreciative of the supporters and participants. Elaine Scutti, Good Shepherd Youth Minister, has enthusiastically organized this event that focuses on helping teens experience the issues a person without shelter may face. They were challenged through simulations, and problem solve and make choices throughout the night. They also listened to speakers from the Out of the Cold Program and Housing Transitions.



...Northwest Savings Bank



Pictured is Donna Holmes, HTI board treasurer and Northwest Savings Bank Vice President Commercial Lending, who presented Morgan Wasikonis with a check. Northwest Savings Bank has been the presenting sponsor for our annual Run for Shelter 5K all three years and they have contributed \$5000 each year. Volunteers from the bank also helped with race preparations. Donna presented HTI with an additional check for \$1000 in December. We greatly appreciate the involvement and financial support Northwest Bank provides to HTI and the community.



...State College Orthodontics

During December, State College Orthodontics collected food and needed items on our Centre House Shelter Wish List from staff and patients. Thanks for the special delivery!



...M&T Bank

Terry Powers, Administrative Vice President at M&T Bank presented Morgan Wasikonis with a check for \$5000 from the M&T Charitable Foundation to support Nittany House, which provides housing support for those with mental health issues.

...Happy Valley Cookie Rally Participants

On December 1, kitchens throughout the State College area were filled with happy bakers making cookies to be donated to the Elves' Gift Shop, which benefitted HTI again this year. We extend a special thanks to Good Shepherd Catholic Church, State College Presbyterian Church and Grace Lutheran/Meals on Wheels who welcomed us into their kitchens. Groups including fifth grade soccer players, middle school girls, students from PSU Habitat for Humanity, and members of the PSU NAACP came together to bake dozens of cookies. The fun continued throughout the week in private kitchens. Residents of Centre House even whipped up a few dozen to contribute. Over 30 dozen cookies were sold at the largest cookie sale ever for the Junior Woman's Club event. Thanks to all who participated!





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openhouse

Winter 2015

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

Gas cards

Bus tokens

Laundry detergent

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Hand soap

Shampoo

Conditioner

Children's shampoo and conditioner

Feminine hygiene products

Deodorant

Toothpaste

Batteries: 9V and AA

Air freshener

Household cleaners

Coffee & Tea

Kitchen garbage bags

Non-perishable foods (especially juice, cereal, healthy snacks, salad dressing, pancake mix, syrup)

Copy paper

Printer Cartridges:

HP Laser 125A-colors: black, magenta, cyan, yellow

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 Date! Second Annual



Sunday, May 3, 2015
1pm-4pm

Seven Mountains Wine Cellars

Enjoy local food and wine pairings (Tastes) and an antiques roadshow presented by Roger Snyder of Apple Hill Antiques (Treasures)

Entertainment provided by
Richard Wylie
\$50/person

Bring an item you would like to have appraised!

More information is available on our website:

www.housingtransitions.com

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Morgan Wasikonis, the Development and Community Relations Coordinator for Housing Transitions (HTI). I accepted this position six months ago and am still learning so much about the organization, but what amazes me is how much I am still learning about Centre County and its residents.

I have been a local for over 25 years, during which I have been a student, a university employee, and a parent. I thought I knew Happy Valley pretty well, and I like it! What I have seen though, is a whole other side to the area that I didn't really know before. I have seen people in need, and I realize that they are often hidden in our community. I have also seen gratitude, fortitude, and resolve amidst these people, who number more than I expected.

I met a woman who came to Centre House, our emergency shelter, not knowing she had cancer when she walked through our doors. While staying at the shelter, and then in one of our bridge housing units, she has received treatment and undergone a bone marrow transplant. She is continuing to fight her health challenges but her strength and spirit of generosity are felt in her presence. She's the kind of person who would insist you have her scarf, or pin, if you told her you admired it.

Recently I caught a glimpse of the excitement and nervousness of a young couple as they prepared to sign paperwork to move into a bridge housing unit. They had been at the shelter for a couple of months and this was the first time they had signed a lease together. It was inspiring to know that while working with our staff, they had overcome obstacles and were ready for this step.

Stories like these are written everyday at HTI, and I am amazed that each time I walk through the doors of the office, there are new faces needing our programs. I also see the generosity of members of our community daily. Receiving in kind, and financial donations from many people throughout the year helps us to continue offering our programs and, perhaps more importantly, helps those in need of our services feel like they have a strong foundation of support. Many of you strengthened our base by contributing at year end. **Thank you!**