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openhouse

Spring 2014

A Newsletter of Housing Transitions, Inc.

Join Us!

*Help make our inaugural
Tastes & Treasures a success.*

Tastes & Treasures
Sunday, May 4, 2-5pm
Seven Mountains Wine Cellars

Sample delicious food & wine pairings
(*Tastes*) and enjoy an antiques road show
by Roger Snyder of Apple Hill Antiques
(*Treasures*).



To learn more about this event and to
download an order form for select wines that
will benefit Housing Transitions, visit
www.housingtransitions.com.

In Their Own Words, part II

*HTI staff share their thoughts and feelings about working for the
Centre region's premier housing resources provider.*

"I love working for HTI. Efforts that I make on behalf of families or individuals have a real visible impact. I can see results when a family or individual grows to be self-sufficient again."

"Not only is the work meaningful in an immediately tangible way, but my coworkers are people that I hold very dear. My work family and my home family exist on the same plane, and this makes my life so much more rich."

"I love coming to work and working with the quality staff that we have. The clients that we work with always have heavy issues, but staff always is there on a good day or a bad day with support and a kind word."

"Housing Transitions staff do 'whatever it takes' to help clients."

"We are a close knit group, and I can always count on Ron to be there for me when I need to run something by him."

"HTI staff treat clients with dignity. Always."

"Nothing could have prepared me for the gratitude we experience. Every day, I know I am making a difference in people's lives."

*Have an HTI story you'd like to share with us?
Contact Susanna at spaul@housingtransitions.com.*

Save the Date

Tastes & Treasures
Sunday, May 4, 2-5pm
See page 1 for details.

Centre Gives
Celebration Breakfast
Wednesday, May 7, 7-10am

This year, make your Centre Gives donation while enjoying free coffee and a continental breakfast! Join us at **Clothes Mentor, 176 Rolling Ridge Dr.**, and receive \$5 in Mentor cash when you donate! Can't make it to breakfast, but still want to participate in Centre Gives? **Donate online between 12am May 6 and noon May 7 at CentreGives.org.**

HTI Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 21

Details available at www.housingtransitions.com.

Run for Shelter 5k
Saturday, November 8 at 9am

HTI's 3rd annual Run for Shelter 5K Run/Walk! Save the date and start training for the run/walk that one participant called, "the best in Happy Valley!"

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!

Board of Directors & Staff

Lam Hood - President
Andrew Maguire - Vice President
Donna Holmes - Treasurer
Della Smith - Secretary
Edie Binkley
Amanda DiPolvere
Ronald Friedman
Ann Goeke
Kathy Harford
Benson Lichtig
Kathy Miglani
Helen Snyder
Mark Toci
Jere Willey

Ron Quinn - Executive Director
Kendra Hicks - Centre House Manager
Annette Ratliff - Program Coordinator
Colby Woodring - Housing Case Manager
Jennifer Stahl - Housing Case Manager
Jan Reasinger - Adult Services Case Manager
Ainsley Rager - Centre House Case Manager
Bobbi Bronstein - Project Facilitator
Susanna Paul - Development & Community Relations Coordinator
Shelter Supervisors
 Debbie Cascino, Karen Ebeling, Kendra Gettig, Amy Hudzik, Bobbi Sheaffer, Felicia Tudor, Kyle Tudor



Wondering what's new with Housing Transitions? Have an opinion or question about housing issues in our community?

Follow us on social media and become part of the conversation!

If you like us, "like" us!



Learning Factory: Penn State Students Team Up to Make a "Concrete" Difference in Our Community!

On a sub-freezing day in January, five Penn State students kicked off their semester-long Learning Factory project at Centre House. With the help of faculty advisers and support from a National Science

Foundation grant, these engineering students will design, fabricate, and install a new ADA ramp for Centre House. Stay tuned for news of a ribbon cutting in the spring! Learn more about Penn State's Learning Factory, at www.lf.psu.edu.

At left, our Learning Factory team poses in front of the existing ramp.



In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we mark the passing of Thelma Price, a beloved community member. Thelma served on Housing Transitions' board for many years, including several as the Vice President, and was a tireless advocate for social justice in our community.

Run for Shelter 5k

Our second annual Run for Shelter 5k drew a crowd of nearly 300 and raised over \$10,000 for Centre House!

Each year, 75-100 Centre County residents call Centre House home. In addition to shelter, Centre House provides an array of supportive services that help ensure long-term stability and self-sufficiency. The Run for Shelter supports all these efforts.

Many thanks to our many sponsors, volunteers, and participants! Without you the event would not have been possible!



Centre Foundation Funds Life Skills Training at Centre House

In December, the Centre Foundation board of directors voted to fund Centre House's Life Skills Training program with \$4,000 from the Counseling Service Fund. By providing 24-hour access to mental health services, Centre House helps homeless members of our community who are struggling with mental illness. By addressing barriers to self-sufficiency and stability, HTI staff can help ensure our clients' long-term success.

Housing Transitions Thanks...

...Junior Woman's Club

Housing Transitions is grateful to have been selected as the 2013-2014 beneficiary of the Junior Woman's Club of State College! In addition to providing volunteer support at our Run for Shelter 5k, the Junior Woman's Club is donating the proceeds of their very popular **Elves' Gift Shop** fundraiser this year and next!

The 2013 Gift Shop, held at the State High South Building, raised \$6,800 for programs at Housing Transitions! The Elves' Gift Shop has holiday treats and treasures for folks of all ages, so stay tuned for news of the 2014 event!



...100+ Women Who Care

At their February meeting, 100+ Women Who Care: Centre County selected Housing Transitions as their quarterly beneficiary. The organization's 20 active members each donated \$100 to fund our programs.



...Our Many Community Partners

- A number of local businesses & organizations held drives to collect items on our shelter wish list and/or provide warm winter clothing for Housing Transitions' clients! A big thanks to:
 - Toftrees Apartments
 - Vairo Village Apartments
 - Scenery Park Dental Associates
 - Bellefonte Middle School Chain Reaction Club
 - Houserville/Lemont Elementary School
 - Central Cambria High School
 - Philipsburg First Church of Christ
 - Sales representatives from Merck
 - Supelco
 - Sprucetown United Methodist Church
 - State College Hadassah
 - Raytheon

- The **State Theatre** donated ten tickets to their recent production of "Annie."
- University Baptist & Brethren Church** invited HTI to participate in their annual Alternative Christmas Fair.
- Clothes Mentor** donated the proceeds of their recent *Girls Night Out* to help fund operations at Housing Transitions.
- Many generous community members** donated time, money, and/or goods to help support our mission. Thank you!

...WORD & SHOUT

(Good Shepherd Catholic Church Youth Groups)

Thanks to WORD and SHOUT, residents of Centre House receive a "birthday blessings" cake on the 15th of each month, providing the opportunity for anyone with a birthday that month to celebrate with their Centre House family!



...Our Lady of Victory Church

Parishioners at OLV in State College showered Housing Transitions with gifts of love this past Christmas! They provided an overwhelming response to our "angel tree" requests - filling our storage room with household goods and gift cards for us to distribute among our clients.

