

## Board of Directors & Staff

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**Mary Daniloff** Rapid Rehousing Case Manager  
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**Karl Gassmann** Dev. & Com. Relations Coordinator  
**Catie Harpster** Centre House Shelter Manager  
**JoAnne Pagan** Housing Case Manager  
**Annette Ratliff** Program and Finance Manager  
**Jan Reasinger** Adult Services Case Manager  
**Lexie Tellish** Supportive Services Coordinator  
**Briella Walk** Housing Support Case Manager

### Shelter Supervisors -

Debbie Cascino, Karl Gassmann, Anna Baker,  
Stacia Mincer, Mindy Whetstone

**LIKE, SHARE, FOLLOW**  
**Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.**

It's a great way for HT and our supporters  
to stay connected and share information.



### HT welcomes its newest staff member!

Hi, my name is Dawn, and I am the new Centre House Case Manager. I am currently a full-time Criminal Justice student, a former Corrections Officer, and the mother of five kids ranging in age from 8 to 28 years of age. I have three sons, and two daughters, My 26 year old son is an active duty soldier, with the United States Army and I have two rescued pit-bull pups named Meg and Loki. They are four years old. Needless to say, there is never a dull moment at our house!

I bring years of life and job experience to Centre House, although this is my first time working as a Case Manager. I am excited to be here, and hope to learn and grow as begin this new adventure with all of you!



Centre County  
United Way

Proud to be part of the  
**CCUW Partner Network**  
Visit us at [housingtransitions.org](http://housingtransitions.org)

## Housing Transitions Community Cookbook

Submit a recipe for a chance to be included on our community cookbook! Mail this form to PO Box 1391, State College, PA 16801 or email your recipe to [kgassmann@housingtransitions.org](mailto:kgassmann@housingtransitions.org) by September 27th. Feel free to include a little story about why it's a favorite recipe!

Name of dish:

Ingredients:

Instructions:

Contact Name:

Contact Email:

### Now Accepting: New Board Members

We currently have openings on our HT Board of Directors! HT has an active and dynamic Board of Directors that represents and advocates for our mission in the community. Members help to shape and develop the direction of our organization. Are you interested in joining a team of dedicated community members?

Email: [kgassmann@housingtransitions.org](mailto:kgassmann@housingtransitions.org)

## Housing Transitions Thanks...



### The Centre PACT Students

Twenty-nine Centre County high school students awarded \$6,000 to five local nonprofits at the conclusion of their year-long participation in Centre PACT (Philanthropic Actions Created by Teens), a program facilitated by Centre Foundation. Housing Transitions was awarded \$1,000 to address one of the groups focus areas, Housing & Food Stability.

### Centre Gives Contributors!

In a record breaking year for Centre Gives, Housing Transitions brought in a record amount of \$53,903 dollars thanks to donations from 253 donors, prizes won the help of local musician Eric Faust, who performed via Facebook live during the two-day event, and our share of the stretch pool! Thanks to all who contributed! **The Centre Foundation** also provided a \$10,000 grant for Covid-19 Relief to help with added costs like when we have had to shelter an increased number of residents in hotels.



### The SOROPTIMIST Club of Centre County

Through various activities, SICC raises funds to help individuals and organizations whose goals are to improve and benefit the lives of women and children, both locally and

around the world. Earlier this year, SICC supported Housing Transitions with a \$2,000 gift which will be used for security upgrades at the Centre House Shelter and Housing Transitions Offices. These funds will help us improve safety and the ability to better serve all populations of homeless individuals and families in our community!

### Scavenger Hunt Participants!

Housing Transitions held its first ever community scavenger hunt in July. Seventeen teams competed to find ten State College landmarks. Thank you to everyone who made it a part of their weekend and congratulations to the Kollat family for earning a gift card with their efforts!



## The Home Foundation...



The HOME Foundation (THF) is the sister agency of Housing Transitions, and in response to the Covid-19 virus situation, continues to provide all of our services, as they are essential and needed for the well-being of our community. We will continue to serve our community and assist those needing housing counseling services. We recognize that the effects of this challenging time will reach far the current response to the pandemic and there will be an increase in the need for our services. Please contact us if you have lost income or a job and are struggling to pay your rent or mortgage, if you are in jeopardy of losing your home because of eviction or foreclosure, if your budget has been challenged and it's having an impact on your housing, and/or you need to find a more affordable living situation. Beginning immediately, in addition to home buying education services, THF will offer the following services for residents throughout Centre County: Budget & Credit Services, Default and Delinquency Counseling, and Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP)

Both THF and Housing Transitions are here for our community and wish everyone health and safety. For more information about our HUD Certified Housing Counseling Services, contact Ginger Cain at: [ginger.c@thehomefoundationcc.org](mailto:ginger.c@thehomefoundationcc.org) or call (814) 954-4215



217 East Nittany Avenue / PO Box 1391 / State College, PA 16804

Office: (814) 237-4863  
Centre House Shelter: (814) 237-5508  
Fax: (814) 237-7480

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# Openhouse

Fall 2020

A Newsletter of Housing Transitions

A message from Development and Community Relations Coordinator,  
Karl Gassmann

## YES, I'd Like to Help!

Every gift helps us continue to provide a pathway from crisis to stability!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift made payable to Housing Transitions

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

Mail to Housing Transitions, PO Box 1391, State College, PA 16804

or donate online at [housingtransitions.org](https://housingtransitions.org)

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

## Shelter Wish List

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

- Laundry Detergent,
- Fabric Softener Sheets
- Dishwasher Detergent
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Floor Cleaner, Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- 13 Gallon Trash Bags
- Quarters for Laundry/Bus Fare, CATA Bus Tokens
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Deodorant, Body Wash
- All-Purpose Cleaning Spray
- Lysol Wipes
- Dry Line White-Out
- **Gift Cards for grocery stores, gas stations, or departments stores in increments of \$10-\$50**

*“The whole time, Housing Transitions was giving us boxes of food, gas cards, Weis cards—as long as we put in the effort, Housing Transitions matched every effort that we put in...”*

**- Tony, a Centre House Shelter resident during Covid-19 who now has his own place with his girlfriend.**

For Housing Transitions, managing a multitude of essential housing programs in the midst of a pandemic has been a challenge met with a united effort to achieve the same outcomes for clients as Housing Transitions always has. Clients like Tony, who was kind enough to share his experience working with HT, have experienced success event during these difficult times.

In May of this year, having been laid off due to the pandemic, Tony and his girlfriend Sheila were facing eviction. Without employment and with nowhere to stay, they contacted Housing Transitions, and were offered a hotel room where they could live while they worked with case managers to get back on their feet. Ordinarily, any client in need of shelter would have stayed in Centre House. From March through the middle of July, HT instead sheltered clients in nearby hotels and apartments to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. Tony and Sheila were two of the first clients who went through this process. “(Housing Transitions) gave us leads on all kinds of different resources that we could use as tools to get us where we needed be” Tony said. It wasn’t long after entering the program that Tony and Sheila began to make progress. “Once we got connected with a job, within five or six weeks, we were ready to move into a place. We reached out to the Office of Adult Services, who helped us pay first month’s rent and security deposit.” In addition to providing guidance and connecting them with resources, HT staff did its best to make sure Tony and Sheila felt supported as they searched for jobs and housing. “The whole time, Housing Transitions was giving us boxes of food, gas cards, Weis cards—as long as we put in the effort, Housing Transitions matched every effort that we put in.” Three months later, they feel as though they’re in a much better situation. “We have a nice one-bedroom apartment in Bellefonte, we’re working, and everything is going great.”

Tony and Sheila are an example of the hardships people are facing as a result of COVID-19, but they’re also an example of how an organization such as HT can provide the same services to clients even while dealing with new obstacles. Despite the logistical challenges this new system presents, HT staff has managed to stay true to its mission, and provide the level of care its clients deserve. The Centre House Shelter is now open again, with limited residents to allow for distancing. We continue to also provide shelter off site. All of our other services to help house the homeless and prevent homelessness, continue to be available without interruption.