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Centre County
United Way

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Visit us at [HousingTransitions.org](https://www.housingtransitions.org)

HT Welcomes its newest board members...

Robert Henry is the Director of Marketing at Best Line Equipment, and has been in that position for nine years, leveraging his diverse background of technical and business skills to help the business grow and succeed in a highly competitive industry. Before working at Best Line Equipment, he worked at AccuWeather, Harley-Davidson, General Motors, Saab Cars, and EDS. Robert has a passion for helping people in need. Over the last decade, he has volunteered consistently with the homeless, elderly, imprisoned, and veterans. He has lived in Bellefonte with his wife and three sons for the last 16 years, and they are active members of Calvary Church in Boalsburg. Robert has served on a few other boards, including his son's local sports team, and, most recently, as the treasurer and marketer of the non-profit Endurance Organization, which hosts an annual clay shooting event to raise funds for Pennsylvania veterans through the PA Wounded Warriors organization. Robert wanted to get involved, in a more meaningful way, beyond traditional volunteer opportunities, with a well-run and successful organization, and is looking forward to doing so with Housing Transitions.

Dustin Schoening is an Assistant Vice President, Senior Retail Lender at CNB Bank, based out of the Presqueisle Street Office in Philipsburg, PA, and has been in this role since February 2021. Previous to being the Senior Retail Lender for CNB Bank, he served as branch manager of the Presqueisle Street Office from January 2019 until February 2021, and as Assistant Manager from January 2017 to December 2018. Community involvement is very important to Dustin. He is involved with Relay for Life, and serves on the board of The Moshannon Valley YMCA and the Philipsburg Kiwanis International club. He also co-organizes the CNB annual Cornhole tournament that raises money for a local cancer patient. Dustin finds it internally gratifying to make a difference in someone's life and looks forward to contributing to Housing Transitions through his role at CNB.

Lisa Rittenhouse is a realtor with RE/MAX Centre Realty. She and her family relocated to State College in 1998 and she started her real estate career the same year. Lisa and her husband have a blended family, with three kids, two of whom will be married in 2021. She also has a grandson. Lisa is passionate about helping others and being involved with her community. She currently volunteers with the Ferguson Planning Commission and Industrial and Commercial Development Authority, Centre County Association of Realtors MLS committee, Foxpointe and Hunters Chase Home Owners Association, RE/MAX Centre Realty Task Force, and The United Way (Taste of the Town Auction Chair). Lisa is looking forward to helping and being an asset to Housing Transitions.

Evangeline Wright is an attorney at MidPenn Legal Services, a non-profit public interest law firm that provides free civil legal services to low income residents in central Pennsylvania. While at MidPenn she has provided assistance to clients facing evictions, mortgage foreclosures, and consumer debt issues, and advocated for survivors of domestic violence. More recently, she has been involved with MidPenn's Rural Tax Advocacy Project. Evangeline believes that adequate housing--the right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity--is a fundamental human right. Through her work at MidPenn, she has observed the ripple effect of housing insecurity in perpetuating poverty and, conversely, the role that stable, affordable housing plays in allowing individuals to thrive within a community. Evangeline looks forward to serving on the Housing Transitions Board of Directors.

Housing Transitions Thanks...



Centre Foundation & Centre Gives Contributors

Housing Transitions had another highly successful Centre Gives, during which 221 contributors gave a total of \$39,852. HT also won a \$500 prize for having the most creative video. Thank you to Centre Foundation, which continually does outstanding work to make this annual fundraiser a huge success. We would also like to thank Dr. Emily Rosenman and her students who gave a fantastic presentation on the state of housing in State College. Lastly, to our ardent supporters who showed up once again, THANK YOU!



**Centre
Foundation
Giving Circle
&
The Soroptimist
Club of
Centre County**

Thanks to major gifts
from these organizations,

Housing Transitions was recently able to install a Ring security system, equipped with an alarm, door bell, and cameras, which monitor both entrances to Centre House. These much needed upgrades address key safety concerns and improve our ability to serve all populations of unsheltered individuals and families in our community.

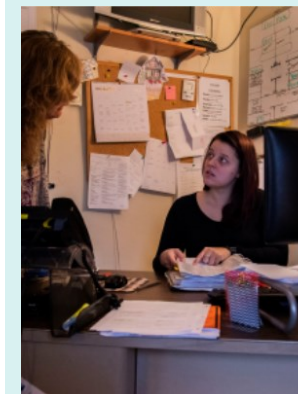


Our Stalwart Supporters

With the return of in-person fundraisers, we would be remiss not to acknowledge the folks who time and again went above and beyond in their support for Housing Transitions. Caring people like Hugh and Janyce Mose, who participated in one of our many virtual fundraisers and helped sustain our efforts during an especially challenging year. From scavenger hunts to online auctions, this community showed that they were here for us and our clients, even when they couldn't be here with us. This photo was taken in April, after the Mose's stopped by with their dog, Molly, to pick up her prize for winning "Mutt Madness". They brought with them a check for \$1,705—one dollar for every vote Molly received in the tournament. We are incredibly grateful for them and everyone who made it possible for us to have successful fundraisers while social-distancing.

Thank you to **Country Inn & Suites**, for contributing to our Gift Basket Auction, and making regular in-kind donations. They recently donated a dozen alarm clocks, something almost always on our wish list. For more wish list items, please see the back page.

Program Updates



Coordinated Entry Access Site

Housing Transitions was recently approved to be a Coordinated Entry System Access Site and we are thrilled! This means that individuals and families experiencing homelessness can contact us directly, rather than calling the 2-1-1 system, to be connected to services. We will complete the same assessment with the household, either in person, or over the phone, that determines eligibility for a variety of housing related human services, shelters, and housing programs in the state. We feel it is very important to be able to offer this service. The assessment is long, asks personal questions, and can take more than a half hour to complete. In addition, the wait times to get through to a housing specialist can be prohibitive. Now, people in Centre County can call our direct line at (814) 237-4865 or schedule a time to come talk with us about their housing crisis.



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

Summer 2021

A Newsletter of Housing Transitions

The Return of Signature Events!

After a long hiatus, HT is excited to announce that it is bringing back two of its most popular events. All proceeds from these fundraisers support the Centre House Shelter Program.



The 4th Annual Food Truck Rally will be held on Sunday, September 12th. Beginning at 12pm, stop by S Allen Street, between Beaver Ave and Foster Ave, for great food from Bonnie Blue's, Classic Cones, On The Go Baking Co., Taco Inc, Savory Station, Taproot Kitchen, Pappy's Popcorn, Happy Valley Slush and more! Hops & Vines will take the stage once again, starting at 1pm. Plus, we'll have games and activities including cornhole, ladderball, a bounce house, and even a raffle featuring items from local businesses like Rapid Transit and Axemann Brewery. We're looking forward to bringing the community together for an afternoon of all-around fun!



Boots, Band, & Barn will make its return on Saturday, October, 9th. Join us for an evening of food, music, and fun in one of the area's most beautiful post-and-beam style barns. Enjoy delicious food from Catering with Style by Dan Rallis, live music featuring Kristi Jean & Her Ne'er-Do-Wells, and a silent auction featuring works from Nittany Woodturners. The event will be held with Jeff Brown as emcee, and Tammy Miller will lead us in a live auction. Experience a wide selection of locally crafted beverages, chat, dance, and even try your hand at the mechanical bull! Purchase tickets and learn about sponsorship opportunities at housingtransitions.org/bbb2021

Questions? Call Morgan Wasikonis at 814.237.4863 or email bbb2021@housingtransitions.org

Shelter Wish List

For groups and individuals who wish to donate items needed at Centre House shelter, below is a list of current needs. Please call (814) 237-4863 with any questions.

- Bowls
- Laundry Detergent
- Dryer Sheets
- Cleaning Products
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Quarters for Laundry/Bus Fare, CATA Bus Tokens
- Shampoo/Conditioner/Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Dry Line White-Out
- Gift Cards for grocery stores, gas stations, or departments stores in increments of \$10-\$50

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

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