



Housing Starts

Fall, 2010

WHC's 30th Anniversary Celebration a Huge Success!!

On May 10, 2010, over 300 guests celebrated with the WHC at Pazo as we marked our 30th anniversary of providing permanent, affordable housing with supportive services to formerly homeless women with disabilities and mothers with children. Guests enjoyed the fabulous Pazo tapas while bidding on an amazing silent auction.

Thirty years is quite a milestone in the life of a business, whether it be for profit or not-for-profit. Our history paints an impressive picture.

From the inception of the Women's Housing Coalition as an Ad Hoc organization in 1979 whose focus was to seek solutions to the problems facing homeless women, to the organization that thirty years later provides those solutions through permanent housing and case management services, The Women's Housing Coalition focus remains dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness for women and their children by providing affordable housing and supportive services to enable them to sustain social and financial independence.

We want to thank everyone who supported our celebration, including all of our sponsors.

Special Thanks to our Sponsors!

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NEXT YEAR'S EVENT -
30 + 1 AT PAZO- MAY 2011!!**



WHC's Holiday Appeal to Arrive After Thanksgiving



2010 has seemed to zoom by!! It's hard to believe that the WHC has already begun to plan our holiday activities. We are always so grateful to the community for the tremendous support we receive so that our residents can enjoy this magical time of year.

We want to thank all of you who regularly contribute to our holiday appeal. In these difficult times, every dollar you contribute goes to help our residents access the services they need on their paths to self-sufficiency. So, watch your mailbox after Thanksgiving for the appeal card. We hope you'll give generously from your heart. And if you've never been a donor before, there has never been a better time to give to the WHC.



From the Director

Dear Friends,

We continue to celebrate 30 years of serving formerly homeless women with disabilities and families. Thanks to all of you who supported our big party at Pazo in May; by all accounts it was a huge success! And, to all of you who support us throughout the year, without you we could not continue to meet our mission.

I hope you've been following the blogs that our residents are writing on our new website! This is a tremendous opportunity for you to follow the ups and downs of our ladies throughout 2010. I read them daily, and the thing that strikes me the most is that all of us, no matter what our station in life, are all more similar than different. Good days and bad, challenges and triumphs; all of us strive each day to be better people.

Exciting things are happening at the WHC! For the past several years, the basement at the Margaret J. Bennett House has been under construction. Now completed, the basement is now The Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Wellness Suite. Our Board Member, George Thomas, Principal of Melville Thomas Architects, has spearheaded this project from the beginning. What has resulted from this all volunteer effort and capital resources from the Weinberg Foundation is a 1,200 square foot suite where our residents are receiving mental health and physical health services.

You can read more about this in this edition. Many thanks to George and all of the contractors who have donated time, labor, and materials to the WHC!!

The WHC is working toward linking our workforce development and mental health initiatives with improving the physical health of our residents. Through a new partnership with People's Community Health Center, our residents will be able to access primary care including baseline health assessments and receive services based on those assessments. Mental and physical health are connected, and when both are being addressed properly, residents are more able to participate in job training programs and ultimately obtain jobs that will put them on a successful career path. We are excited about this new partnership and I am sure we will have many stories of success.

There is so much more to say, and I have run out of room, so I invite you enjoy the fall edition of the WHC newsletter. Happy Fall!!

All the best,



Joann Levy
Executive Director

A New Day



My name is Eleisha and PNC Bank gave me a chance to open a bank account when no other bank would. Even though lots of banks advertise that they allow new customers to open accounts online or by telephone, I was able to get assistance from attending the Financial Workshop with PNC Bank. I had a chance to compare the services and costs of several banks that turned me down before I was able to open an account with PNC Bank.

PNC Bank offers free checking with no minimum balance requirement, no monthly service charge, savings, online banking, and bill pay. I've learned that paying cash or purchasing money orders for payments is inefficient, carrying cash can also be dangerous and paying in cash doesn't leave much evidence behind to prove your payment in case of a dispute. Certainly a bank account has made budgeting much easier for me thanks to PNC Bank.

Thanks
Eleisha

The Greening of WHC

We at the WHC are moving forward and joining in the effort by becoming a little greener. We are starting to compile an e-mail address list so that we will be able to send you our newsletter and event information on line. We do hope you will join us!

Please send the following information to mail@womenshousing.org.



Name
Address
E-mail address

Please be assured that your personal information is VERY important to us and we will not share it with any other organization.

If you have any questions please contact Wendy, wsager@womenshousing.org.

Volunteers Build Wellness Suite at The Margaret Bennett House

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Wellness Suite Opens

The Bennett House opened in 2000, and serves 29 formerly homeless women with disabilities. Until 2006, the WHC pondered many different uses for the undeveloped space in the basement, which used to be a commercial kitchen many years ago before the WHC and our development partner, Homes for America, redeveloped the historic property.

When George Thomas, principal of Melville Thomas Architects and WHC Board member joined in the ongoing conversation about how to use the space, WHC staff was talking about the need to make mental and physical health services more accessible to our residents. George had been part of an all volunteer effort to renovate a library in one of Baltimore City's poorest schools. He thought if the same model could be used, he could spearhead an effort to transform the basement in to a wellness suite.

Four years and thousands of volunteer hours and donated building materials later, the empty space has been transformed in to a place where our residents are receiving health assessments and mental health services through a Memorandum of Understanding with People's Community Health Center, Inc. A complete list of contractors that worked on the space can be found below.

Stable physical and mental health, along with safe, affordable housing provides the foundation for our residents to be able to return to the workforce and lead productive lives. Learning to manage and prevent health issues and working toward good mental health, including complying with medication requirements are critical components that need to be integrated into daily life. People's Community Health provides the necessary services that our residents need to be able to do this.

The WHC is forever grateful to George Thomas and all of our contractors for their boundless energy and enthusiasm on this fantastic effort.

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YouthWorks Baltimore City

Teens of The WHC participated in "YouthWorks", a summer employment program supported through The Mayor's Office of Employment Development and Baltimore City's Congressional Delegation. YouthWorks provides well-prepared, multi-skilled, and dependable high school students with skills they'll need to have successful careers. Some of the teens worked at summer camps throughout Baltimore City and are looking forward to participating next year.

Teens who participated were: Traunyay S., Dasia F., Bria J., Christopher W., Quintin B., and Brittany B.



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Workforce Development Begins at The WHC



**American
Red Cross**

Thanks to a stimulus grant from the Federal Government earlier this year, the WHC was able to implement several job training programs for our residents. We wanted to concentrate on job trainings in the health field because jobs are prevalent for those with the right training and experience. We partnered with The American Red Cross Central Maryland Chapter and Doctor's Help Inc. Through the Red Cross, we were able to send 5 women to Certified Nursing Assistant (C.N.A.) training. All passed the classroom and clinical portions of the training and 3 residents have test dates scheduled for their Nursing Board Certification. Through Doctor's Help Inc. and St. Agnes Hospital, the WHC sent 16 women to Medical Billing training and 7 residents to Phlebotomy training. The trainings ended in August and our women are currently looking for employment in their fields. Best of luck to them. The WHC will keep you posted on their successes.

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Wish List

Utensils/Cutlery • Microwave
Dish sets • Glass sets • Storage
Containers (new) • Small television
Small clocks and radios • Pillows (new)
Twin sheet sets (new) • Towels (new)
Telephones • Small appliances (can
opener, fan, toaster oven, microwave)
Small Lamp • Toothbrushes/toothpaste
Body/face soap • Deodorant • Shampoo
Body/baby powder • Hair Grease
Feminine hygiene products • Hair relaxer
Permanents • Combs, picks, brushes
Gift certificates for clothing stores

Don't forget to designate the WHC when you make a United Way commitment. The WHC designation number is 4999. For more information, please call the WHC at 410-235-5782. Donations are tax deductible. If you are contributing through the Combined Federal Campaign, the WHC designation number is 27579.

To Call The WHC: **410.235.5782**
On the web: **www.womenshousing.org**



It brings out the best in all of us