



Housing Starts

Spring, 2010

Please join us as we celebrate 30 years!



5.10.10

6PM-9PM • PAZO RESTAURANT

FABULOUS FOOD, SPIRITS
AND A MUST SEE AUCTION!



Tickets: SPACE IS LIMITED. PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY, \$85.
TICKETS@WOMENSHOUSING.ORG OR CALL 410.235.5782.

From Homelessness to Homeownership: WHC Partners with Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake



We are often asked what happens to our residents once they leave the WHC. Many receive Section 8 vouchers and find apartments, many move in to market-rate rentals. Why not become homeowners? We found ourselves pondering that question last year and thought, indeed, why not? The WHC, through our belief in collaboration and partnership, provides the supports and services that assist our residents in reaching their full individual capacity. So where possible, why not help them on the path to homeownership?

Paris Turner is a wonderful example of what happens when all of the right elements come together. Her courage and perseverance coupled with the necessary resources have changed her life forever. Paris struggled with addiction and prison for 24 years and was finally able to break that cycle when she entered Marian House in 2007. After 10 months she moved to the WHC and became involved with Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake while obtaining employment at Mercy Hospital where she has been for almost 2 years. Paris began her sweat equity immediately after learning she was accepted to Habitat.

On January 16, 2010, in a ceremony on Fayette Street in front of her new home, Paris received the keys with friends, family and the community looking on. She told her story of the journey from Marian House to the WHC and Habitat to her new home. Paris has lived her favorite quote: **"If it is to be, then it's up to me."**

The WHC and Habitat have signed a formal memorandum of understanding which will provide the WHC with at least five spaces per year in Habitat's program. In turn, the WHC will provide at least five spaces per year in our financial literacy program for Habitat participants. From homelessness to homeownership? Absolutely!!

From the Director

Dear Friends of The WHC,

I can barely contain my excitement about the 30th anniversary of the WHC and I hope you'll join in our celebration at Pazo on May 10th! Over these 30 years, we have assisted 816 women and 75 children, and developed 6 housing programs.

To all of the founders, past Board Members, Executive Directors and staff of the WHC, I express my deepest gratitude for your vision and commitment, and have been honored for the past five and one-half years to carry on your extraordinary legacy. To all of our supporters; foundations, corporations, organizations, government, individuals and the United Way, thank you for your long-standing belief in our mission.

This is also a celebration of every woman and child who has come in to our program and has worked so hard to rebuild their lives and regain their self-sufficiency. The stories of each of our residents since the beginning is unique; their struggles and fears, challenges, and ultimately, successes. I gather strength every day knowing what so many of them have faced and overcome. For that I am grateful.

Have you seen our new website? Go to www.womenshousing.org and check it out! Especially "Inside the House", WHC's blog where you can follow the lives of five of our residents all year long. You can also buy tickets for the 30th anniversary celebration!!

Hope you see all of you on May 10th!!



Joann Levy
Executive Director



Meet Our Newly Elected Board Members

Dr. Anne Lin is currently the Founding Dean and Professor of the new School of Pharmacy at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

Deborah Whiteley is a Certified Public Accountant in the real estate division of Hertzbach and Company, P.A.

Donald Rea is a partner in the Baltimore office of the law firm McGuire-Woods LLP. His practice focuses on commercial real estate and development litigation.

Mary Ann Donaghy is principal of a marketing consulting practice, Insights & Action.

"We're excited to have this group of outstanding and dedicated professionals bring their variety of talents and experience to the board of directors," said board president Dianna Boucher.

S.H.I.N.E Comes to the Calverton

"Life can be found only in the present moment. The past is gone, the future is not yet here, and if we do not go back to ourselves in the present moment, we cannot be in touch with life."
- Thich Nhat Hanh



In January, ten Calverton residents began an eight week journey into mindfulness and self reflection with the S.H.I.N.E. program. Mindfulness has its origins in Eastern philosophy and Buddhism and refers to being completely in touch with and aware of the present moment. **S.H.I.N.E. standing for Support – Honor – Inspire – Nurture – Evolve**, led by facilitator and creator Amy Bloom-Connolly, encouraged self awareness and promoted self esteem by allowing residents to discover their strengths through developing skills of leadership, communication, and self-sufficiency.

These skills were cultivated through meaningful conversations and mindful meditation. Meeting each Monday evening residents enjoyed a meal together then met to share their wisdom as they supported and nurtured one another. Residents learn to slow down and be present in the moment, not thinking about what they need to do next or what they did last week. Many residents felt that they had a sense of calmness about them after learning the techniques and they have a sense of support from other group members. S.H.I.N.E gave residents the ability to see the strengths that they possessed in themselves that so often are overlooked.

Capture the Moments

INTRODUCING: The Women's Housing Coalition's brand new Website! The WHC has upgraded its website at www.womenshousing.org. The new highlights include: Programs, Success Stories, News, Events and much more.

Check out the newest and most exciting addition to our site, the WHC "Inside the House" blog – a must see! Our new blog features various WHC residents as they carry out their daily schedules – their obstacles and their triumphs. Experience the assorted struggles, emotions, limitations, and strengths of these beautifully exceptional women as they set in motion their individual goals and missions in efforts to obtain self-sufficiency and growth. Take a closer look into the lives of WHC residents.

Remember our wish list. As we are a non-profit organization, we appreciate all donations – monetary, household, clothing, and others assisting us with our mission as we continue to "Open Doors to Change." The WHC wish list remains a highlight on our web site. With donation inquiries, our contact information links can be found at the bottom of each web page.

The Women's Housing Coalition residents and staff thank everyone for your support and assistance as we collectively give back with hopes of creating enhanced possibilities with all our residents.

Visit us on the web at www.womenshousing.org.

Certified Nursing Assistant Training For WHC Women



Thanks to a CSBG stimulus grant to provide job training for underemployed women, seven WHC residents have the opportunity to enroll in Certified Nursing Assistant training through The Central Maryland Chapter of The American Red Cross.



Currently five women are participating in the training. The training is fast paced and rigorous. The course is 114 hours long and includes 43 hours of lecture/theory, 29 hours of lab practice and 42 hours of clinical experience. Through lecture, video, role playing and laboratory practice, the students learn skills such as bathing, dressing, positioning and taking vital signs. During the clinical rotation, the students will gain hands on practical experience working with patients in an actual nursing facility. The five WHC women have all successfully completed the classroom training and all have maintained an "A" average. They are in the process of registering for their clinical rotations. All five women will complete the course by the end of April.

Congratulations to them!

Knitting at the Jenkins

The ladies at the Jenkins house had the pleasure of learning to knit for three weekends. What started out to be difficult and challenging became fun and rewarding. The ladies made great scarves and learned new stitches. Everyone found knitting to be relaxing during their quiet time; and have truly found a new hobby. Since the knitting classes concluded, the ladies have formed a knitting club, to encourage each other and check each others progress. We would like to thank Andrea, Kathy, and Karen for their time and support. We are looking forward to the next class where the ladies will be making ponchos.



Oral Health Screenings at the WHC

On Saturday March 6th, fifteen dental students from The University of Maryland Dental School donated their time to our residents.



They set up shop on the 4th floor of our Calverton building and performed oral health screenings from 10:00am – 1:00pm for all WHC women and children. In addition to the screening, they passed out dental goodie bags containing toothbrushes, tooth paste, floss and mouthwash.



Opening doors to change

119 E. 25th Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218



Ambitious Minds

“Success becomes ingrained in the culture; and people naturally look for it, focus on it, and expect it”. By Traunay

Although all our children at The Susanna Wesley House experience varying levels of change, growth, and improved skills, many share that their lives have been enhanced dramatically while in this program.

The children at The Susanna Wesley House have been climbing the ladder to success.

They are excellent students and have become involved in the community.

- Dasia, is a 9th grade Nursing major at Edmondson High School and volunteers at The University of Maryland (ER department);
- Darian is a 9th grade student at Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy and is a member of The Hamilton Young Marines Program. The Hamilton Young Marines Program is an educational and service program. It promotes the mental, moral, and development of its members;

- Traunay is an 8th grade honor roll student who has participated in a round table discussion with entrepreneur, Russell Simmons in New York City and serves a member of “NFTE” - Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. NFTE is a program that helps young people from low-income communities build skills and unlock their entrepreneurial creativity.

The children at the SWH are also involved in The After School Project through Baltimore City Public School System. This project initiates tutorial and homework assistance with a certified teacher.

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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**

