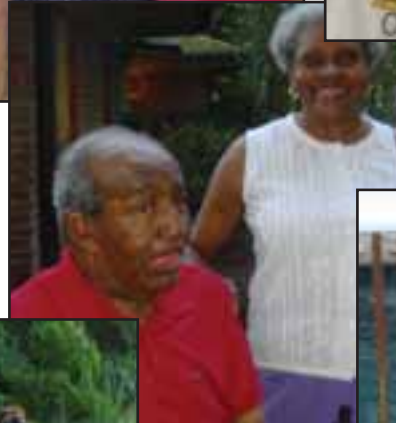
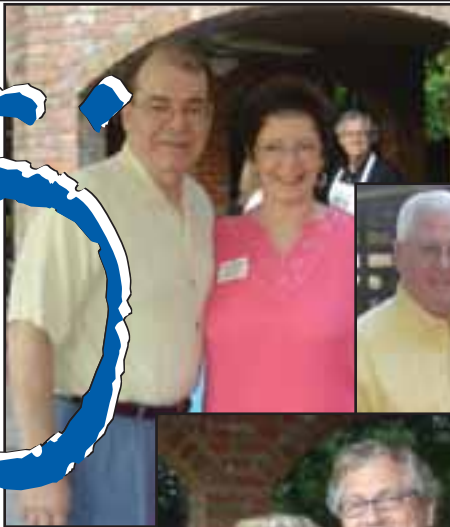


# OUR HOUSE

August 2006

A Shelter for the Working Homeless

Dinner  
On  
The  
Grounds



Nouveau Southern cuisine, white glove service and a beautiful sunset on the Arkansas River marked a smashing success for Our House's

first Dinner On The Grounds. The gathering of almost 300 supporters of Our House was held at the home of Beth and Mike Coulson.

## Dinner On The Grounds Raises Over \$25,000

Continued on page 2

## GRANTS RECEIVED

**\$10,000** Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grant – national grant competition. Specifically, “the funds will help Our House provide homeless and low-income adults with the education, skills, and resources to find meaningful employment and to be successful members of the workforce, the community and their families.” This was a nationally competitive selection process. Our House was one of only six organizations in Arkansas to receive this grant award.

**\$25,000** for capital campaign from the Darragh Foundation. From their May 5 letter: “The board is impressed with all the work that Our House is doing, especially in its new quarters, and with the vital need that it fulfills in our community. We hope that the community will support the work that you do in even greater measure.”

**\$3,000** – Dillard’s, Inc. – to support Our House’s operations.

**\$10,000** from Arkansas’ Department of Health and Human Services – an Emergency Shelter Grant given by DHHS for sheltering Katrina evacuees, while continuing to help those within our own community.

**\$30,000** from the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services – two Emergency Shelter Grants to help support the family and emergency shelters operated by Our House, which provide housing and essential services to over 110 people on any given day.

**\$1,700** – “Youvarn Anderson Memorial Award” – awarded by the Arkansas Hunger Coalition and the family of the late Youvarn Anderson. Our House was selected from applicants across the state. The award was given, “In recognition of outstanding programming that encourages the growth of self-sufficiency in needy families and helps combat hunger and poverty.”

## 100 FOR THE HOMELESS

Our House’s new annual giving campaign, 100 for the Homeless, is well underway. The goal is to have 100 donors, committed to giving a minimum of \$1000 annually, by year-end. Members of 100 for the Homeless will be honored on the Giving Wall in the Emergency Shelter. Please consider this worthwhile program and contact Georgia Mjartan, Executive Director, for more information (374-7383 or ourhouseshelter@sbcshelter.org).

***“Unless someone like  
you cares a whole awful  
lot, nothing is going to  
get better. It's not.”***

Dr. Seuss

## RICE DEPOT'S GENEROSITY

Rice Depot has carried Our House through some tough times with food and supplies donations. We can't thank you enough Rice Depot!

## PLAYGROUND PLANNING!



Volunteers and residents design the playground of their dreams. See them become a reality in one miraculous day in next month's newsletter.

## BRAVO! Continued

Major event sponsors included AT&T, US Bank, Arkansas Democrat Gazette and Christie and Steve Bardwell. Guests mingled on the different levels of the Coulson's terraced gardens and pools while listening to live music from Meshugga. The informal dining experience included fabulous dishes from NU Cuisine Lounge, Vermillion Water Grille, Trio's, Loca Luna, Wild Oats, Scallions, RSVP Catering, Homer's, Catering to You, Browning's and Burge's, as well as fried chicken and melt-in-your-mouth biscuits from Popeye's.

The children who live at Our House had decorated paper

fans which were passed out on the steamy summer evening by volunteers with the North Little Rock Mayor's Youth Council.

“It was truly inspiring to see so many people from our community come together in support of Our House. It was a really diverse crowd – artists, lawyers, community leaders, people from the business community. It was clear that everyone there was genuinely enjoying each other's company, the food, and the beautiful setting.” Georgia Mjartan, executive director said.

Next year's event is scheduled for June 9th.

## 2 - 4 - 6 - 8 WHO DO WE APPRECIATE?

### DINNER ON THE GROUNDS SUPPORTERS!

#### Sponsors

AT&T  
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette  
Christie and Steve Bardwell  
US Bank

#### Patrons

Anonymous  
Cheryl Avants and Bill Nowlin  
Kirk Bradshaw  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS  
Nancy and Bob Childress  
Judi and Stephen Copley  
Mary and Jimmy Cornwell  
Beth and Mike Coulson  
FRIDAY, ELDREDGE & CLARK LAW FIRM  
Miles Goggans  
Barbara Graves and Barry McDaniel  
Lynda and Pat Hampel  
Paula and Bob Holloway  
Jill and Greg Joslin

#### KEYSTONE / PRECISION TUNE

AUTO CARE  
Jennifer and Lane Kidd  
LEWIS BUILDERS  
Clark and Janell Mason  
Heather and Clay Mercer  
Karen and Peter Miller  
Georgia and Dominik Mjartan  
NICHOLSON COMMUNICATIONS  
Christian O'Neal  
Christen and Kyle Pitts  
RASCO, WINTER, ABSTON & MOORE  
Sheila and Reg Robinson  
Jan Scholl  
Wendy See and Jeff Stinson  
Elizabeth and Tom Small  
SMART SOUTHERN HOMES  
THE SUMBLES TEAM – Kathe and Randy  
Sumbles/Keller Williams  
Johnna Goggans Thomas  
Christie and Van Tilbury  
Bev Wittenberg  
Lisa and Grady Wooten

#### Food and Beverage Donors

Browning's Mexican Food  
Burge's  
Catering To You  
Glazer's Distributors Of Arkansas  
Homer's Restaurant  
Loca Luna  
NU Cuisine Lounge  
Popeye's  
RSVP Catering  
Scallions  
Trio's  
Vermillion Water Grille  
Wild Oats Market

#### Also Thanks To

Meshugga Klezmer Band  
North Little Rock Mayor's Youth Council

**And all of our wonderful volunteers who made our event a great success!**

## Donating To Our House - Be Part of the Solution!

There are many opportunities to become more involved in the success of Our House and its residents. By giving time, meals or tax-deductible donations, you will ensure the success of families.

**Sponsor-a-Meal** – \$250 pays for breakfast and lunch for 80-100 Our House residents.

**Give-a-Scholarship** – \$500 pays for one month of intensive computer job training for a homeless adult. With the skills learned in Our House's training program, adults can find meaningful employment and parents can find 8 – 5 jobs that allow them to be home with their children at night.

**Click-A-Donation** – make a donation at [www.ourhouseshelter.org](http://www.ourhouseshelter.org) and click on Resource/Donations at the bottom of the page.

For more information on ways to give or to schedule a tour to learn more about Our House, contact Judy Rickard at 501-374-7383.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check one:

Capital Campaign     \$1,000 (Buy-A-Bed)     \$250 (Sponsor-a-Meal)

\$500 (Give-a-Scholarship)     Greatest Need

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Our House** will send an acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Great Need Requires  
Great Gestures  
From Those With  
Means To Help.**

Please include this form with your tax-deductible contribution and mail to:  
Our House, ATTN: Executive Director, P.O. Box 34155, Little Rock, AR 72203

# Smashing Success Story – Two Our House Residents

Two of our residents amassed more than \$19,000 in savings during their experience at Our House, and have since left to live independently. A requirement of residency at Our House is that 75% of earnings must be placed in a savings account. This nest-egg gives residents a good financial base as they leave Our House to move into permanent housing.

Mary (not her actual name), age 58, spent 15 months at the shelter. During this stay she worked at the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette part-time while upgrading her computer and job skills in our on-site training center. After leaving she obtained a full-time job at St. Vincent Infirmary and purchased

a house with funds saved while residing at Our House.

James (not his actual name), also 58, who was at Our House shelter three times previously, called to say he missed us! He returned for nine months and while working full time managed to save over \$9,000. Upon arrival we asked him, as we do others, to list all that he owed. He was required to use a portion of each week's earnings to pay off these debts and to establish a sound credit record. Owner now of a car, for which he paid cash, James resides in an apartment, works for a security company, and tells us he now has additional savings.

Another example of how Our House makes a difference in the lives of its residents. Congratulations to Mary and James!



## **Our Mission**

**Our House provides the working homeless – families and individuals – with safe, clean, comfortable housing; food; free child care; education; and job training in order that they may return to independence and lead productive lives.**

Newsletter Sponsored by  
Barry McDaniel

**Morgan Stanley**

OUR HOUSE, INC. 300 E Roosevelt Road, P.O. Box 34155 • Little Rock, AR 72206

Phone: 501-374-7383 • Fax: 501-374-9611 • Email: ourhouseshelter@sbcglobal.net • Website: www.ourhouseshelter.org



OUR HOUSE, INC. • P.O. BOX 34155 • LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203



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