

OUR HOUSE

December 2006

Programs for the Working Homeless

A Million Thanks to 1000 Volunteers

As the year comes to a close, we are celebrating the fact that over 1000 people volunteered at Our House this year! These 1000 + volunteers from dozens of groups have been working on renovation projects that improve the lives of the homeless families and children who live at Our House. Back in July (on the hottest day of the year) over 250 volunteers built an entire playground in one day. Just this month, another group of volunteers laid 4000 square feet of sod and planted flowers and fragrant bushes, creating a beautiful, grassy backyard for homeless kids to enjoy. Scout troops, businesses, congregations, and civic clubs are adopting rooms in the family shelter – installing new flooring, painting, and refurbishing. All of these efforts are making Our House a better place for people to be during their transition out of homelessness.

Now, the nearly 300 children who live at Our House each year have a place to play and enjoy their childhoods. The playground, funded by a grant from PepsiCo and KaBOOM! , will give homeless children a chance to be kids, to experience success, and to know that their dreams and hopes can come true. The playground will also give parents the opportunity to share a happy moment with their kids—pushing them on the swings or helping them across the monkey bars.

With help from volunteers and local businesses (which donate thousands of dollars worth of materials each year), Our House creates a nurturing environment for homeless children and families. Our House is creating this opportunity for a better life every day—through the early childhood programs at our free daycare center, classes for parents that improve their chance at success in the workforce, and the safe, stable environment that Our House offers in the emergency and family shelters. To volunteer at Our House, call 374-7383.



OUR HOUSE WELCOMES OUR YOUNGEST RESIDENT

When Yolanda came to Our House, she was four months pregnant and homeless. This month, she gave birth to a beautiful, healthy girl! Sitting on her bed in the family shelter, holding her newborn baby, Yolanda said, "I have a goal. By the time my baby is in kindergarten, I want to have a profession. I know it's going to take a lot to get there, but I'm going to do it for my baby." Since coming to Our House, Yolanda, has enrolled in classes in the Learning Center and is training to be a daycare professional. She works full time in the Our House daycare center (and if it were up to her, she would



have been back at work a week after giving birth). We have no doubt that Yolanda will reach her goals.

OUR HOUSE ADDS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS, APPOINTS LEADERSHIP

Our House, Inc. has announced the election of thirteen new members to its Board of Directors and appointed individuals to chair board committees.

Lynn Hamilton, Rabbi Martin J. Applebaum, Kevin Couch, Heather Detherow, M. Claire Haun, Maggie Hawkins, Jon Lewis, Angela Moody, Lee Anne Overall, Annette Sanders, Johnna Thomas, Robynne White and Stacy Williams have been newly elected to serve one, two and three-year terms.

The following individuals were appointed chairpersons of their respective committees:

Executive - Van Tilbury

Finance - Reg Robinson

Development - Janell Mason

Governance and Legislation -

Rev. Stephen Copley

Programs - Heather Detherow

Buildings and Grounds - Jon Lewis

Public Relations - Angela Moody
Advisory -

The Honorable Annabelle Clinton-Imber

"This is an exciting time for Our House," said Van Tilbury, president of the Our House, Inc. Board of Directors. "We have completed Phase I of our capital campaign and the time, talent and service of these outstanding community leaders now joining the board will no doubt improve our organization's ability to ensure the lives of our residents are continually enhanced and that we impact our community like never before."

Our House, Inc. is governed by a board of directors and an advisory board comprising civic leaders and members of Little Rock's business and religious communities. Board members are responsible for formulating long-range goals, funding, policies and operating procedures.

Our House Learning Center: Preparing the Homeless for the Workforce

Single parents with little education and job skills often have the most difficulty providing for their children. That's why Our House equips single mothers like these three women with the skills to get well-paying day jobs. While enrolled in Our House Learning Center programs, these parents are learning the skills they'll need to get an office job.

In the early 1990s, Our House offered the nation's first computer training program for homeless people. Our House continues to pioneer innovative ways to equip the homeless with the tools to become self-sufficient. Our House provides individuals



and families with job training, education, free childcare, food, and a safe, clean living environment. Our House provides these comprehensive services to approximately 1000 people – including children and families – each year.

Standing Ovation for Mayor Jim Dailey

Benefiting Our House

December 4, 2006

11:30 am

Philander Smith College

Our House Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Van Tilbury, President

Janell Mason, Vice President

Reg Robinson, Treasurer

Lynn Hamilton, Secretary

Board Members

Rabbi Martin J. Applebaum

Reverend Steve Copley

Kevin Couch

Heather Detherow

Sheila Gomez

M. Claire Haun

Maggie Hawkins

Robert Holloway

Greg Joslin

Jon Lewis

Angela Moody

Lee Anne Overall

Annette Sanders

Jan Scholl

Johnna Thomas

Guy Wade

Kathy Wells

Robynne White

Stacy Williams

Bev Wittenberg

Advisory Board

Beth Coulson

Hon. Annabelle Clinton-Imber

Barry McDaniel

Evelyn Rose

John Tisdale

100 for the Homeless

Our House recently kicked off the "100 for the Homeless" giving campaign. The goal is to offer the community an opportunity to support Our House on an annual basis by giving \$1000 each year by June 30th. Donors are recognized in the newsletter and given special recognition on the Giving Wall in the Our House Shelter.

Donors tour Our House with Executive Director, Georgia Mjartan, to witness the remarkable program first hand. Donors visit the new Our House Shelter which includes a TV lounge, reading area, men's and women's dorm-style rooms, laundry, dining area and commercial kitchen equipped by the Capital Hotel's recent renova-

tion. They also see our state-licensed daycare, computer and education training center and new playground.

Should you wish to make a difference for these hard-working individuals, your contribution may be paid in a single donation, quarterly or monthly. Our House exists primarily on funds donated by interfaith groups, charitable corporations and individuals, along with grants and the United Way. Our single largest source of funds comes from individuals. We are in great need of your support to continue the momentum we have as we near our 20th year of operation. If you would like to be one of the 100 for the Homeless, please contact Georgia Mjartan by calling 501.374.7383 today.

Thanks, Our House Donors and Partners!

(Major Donors Since July 1, 2006)

100 for the Homeless (\$1000)

Angela and Edward O. Moody
Annabelle Imber
Barry McDaniel
Beth and Mike Coulson
Bob Holloway
Chester Phillips
Georgia and Dominik Mjartan
James O'Brien
Leah Campanella
Sam Alley
Van Tilbury
Vratsinas Construction Company
Wally Gieringer

"Greatest Need" Partners (\$500+)

Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic Church
Christ the King

Cathedral of St. Andrew
Immaculate Conception
Faith United Church of Christ
First United Methodist Church
St. James United Methodist Church
Grace Presbyterian Church
Magna IV
Morgan Stanley/Barry McDaniel
(Newsletter Sponsor)
Gifts in Memory of Christie Tilbury
Georgia and Dominik Mjartan
Gary Gault Trust Fund
Andrew Upchurch

In-Kind Partners

Winrock Grass Farms
Sherwin-Williams (University Avenue)
River Valley Horticultural Products
Rice Depot
Potluck

Grants

United Way (for All Programs)
DHHS Emergency Shelter Grant
(for Emergency Shelter)
HUD Supportive Housing Grant (for Family Shelter and Supportive Services)
Our Way (for Learning Center)
Catholic Diocese of Little Rock
(for All Programs)
Entergy (for All Programs)

Capital Campaign Partners (\$1000+)

Darragh Foundation
Tenenbaum Foundation
Ramsey Krug Farrell and Lensing
Arkansas Democrat Gazette
Beth and Mike Coulson
Barry McDaniel and Barbara Graves
Hon. Annabelle Clinton-Imber
Henry Kelley Jr.
Jan Scholl
Heath Harper
Janell and Clark Mason

Your Name _____

Address: _____

Check one:

100 for the Homeless (\$1000)

Capital Campaign

Family Sponsor (\$500)

Individual Sponsor (\$250)

Greatest Need

Other

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Our House will send an acknowledgement to: _____

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

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

Half of Our House Family Shelter Residents are Children



On Halloween, Our House gave costumes to all of the children at Our House. It's the little things that make a big difference. Your donations make that possible!

Half of the people who live in the Our House family shelter are children, like 9 year old Kamesha. Kamesha came to Our House with her father, who is caring for her while her mother serves in Iraq. While these children and families are in our care, we raise their chances at success in the workforce, school and in the community now and in the future.

A \$20 donation allows a homeless child to wear clean clothes and eat nutritious meals all week.

Yes, my check is enclosed

A \$50 donation enables a family to stay together in our air conditioned or heated, clean family shelter.

Yes, my check is enclosed

A \$75 donation enrolls a child in Starting Point Daycare, enabling the parent to work and the child to learn and play.

Yes, my check is enclosed

OUR HOUSE, INC. 302 East Roosevelt Road, P.O. Box 34155 • Little Rock, AR 72206

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A United Way Member Agency

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